

Hammersmith

CHRONICLE

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DUCHESS FIGHTS ANIMAL CRUELTY

Depressed nurse set himself on fire

Amin Abdullah allowed out from mental health unit to buy a suit

BY JACK DIXON
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AN award-winning nurse who set himself on fire after being sacked from his dream job at Charing Cross Hospital had revealed his suicide plan while under the care of experts at a mental health unit – but was still allowed to leave the ward unaccompanied.

Amin Abdullah doused himself in petrol and set himself alight outside Kensington Palace in February last year.

The 41-year-old had previously tried to take an overdose of steroids while receiving treatment for depression at St Charles Hospital.

He left the ward to buy a suit for an appeal hearing against his dismissal but did not return within the two-hour time limit.

The remains of his body were found outside the palace in the early hours of the following morning.

But an inquest heard last week that Mr Abdullah had told a fellow patient of his intentions only a few days earlier.

Westminster Coroner's Court heard that he was allowed hour-long breaks away from the ward even though the agreement broke official procedures.

Caroline Cross, the lawyer representing Mr Abdullah's partner Terry Skitmore at the hearing, questioned the hospital's risk assessment policy.

She said: "A risk assessment needs to be conducted before the discharge of a service user. A patient allowed escorted leave should not be allowed to leave unaccompanied."

Dr Anna Higgitt, a consultant psychiatrist at St Charles, admitted that the process of handing over patients had been "inadequate".

She told the hearing: "The plan was to allow him a bit more leave than usual because he denied any plans to harm himself and reassured us he wasn't planning anything. He hadn't broken any agreements on leaving before that."

Dr Higgitt said Mr Abdullah had denied revealing details of his suicide bid to a fellow patient and that nurses had reported that he had been calm on the ward.

She added that preventing him from leaving the ward could have had a "corrosive" impact on his mental health.



Terry Skitmore, who criticised the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, holds up a photo of Amin



Amin Abdullah

Photo Terry Skitmore/SWNS

However, only a month earlier he had been rated at "high risk" of suicide and had taken an overdose of steroids bought from a drug dealer.

The inquest also heard that Mr Abdullah's mental health had worsened after he was dismissed from his job at Charing Cross.

He was sacked in December for gross misconduct after supporting a colleague who had received a complaint from a patient.

He had lodged an appeal against the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, and had been due to attend a hearing only a few days after he died.

Mr Skitmore, 62, criticised the trust for taking too long over the disciplinary process.

"They let it drag on for 10 weeks and he became colossally depressed," he said.

"The trust has apologised but that's just an organisation, it means nothing to me."

Lesley Powls, head of nursing at the trust, said it had apologised publicly and privately for the delays to the appeal.

Mr Abdullah, of Notting Hill, was raised in an orphanage and moved to the UK in 2003 before becoming a British citizen.

He won the Hannah Evans award for excellence when he graduated from Buckinghamshire New University.

The coroner concluded that Mr Abdullah killed himself "while the balance of his mind was disturbed".

Diesel penalty row

COUNCILLORS have clashed over the idea of an extra parking charge for diesel drivers in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Labour cabinet members said the move could encourage people to buy more environmentally friendly vehicles but Conservative councillors branded the suggestion a stealth tax.

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Play generation game

A CAST of veteran actors in their 60s and 70s are to play the parts of teenagers in a groundbreaking new show at Hammersmith's Lyric Theatre this spring.

Seventeen, a play by acclaimed Australian writer Matthew Whittet, focuses on a group of friends in between leaving school and moving on to adulthood.

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- see page 14



Beacon of hope in the fight against diabetes



Dr Victoria Salem

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MORE than 4.5 million people across the UK are now living with diabetes – and three times that number are at risk of developing the condition.

It is fast becoming one of the nation's biggest healthcare crises, with £10 billion carved out of the NHS budget every year to cover the cost of diagnosis and treatment.

But behind the facts and figures, pioneering researchers are pushing back the boundaries of science in a bid to find a cure.

One of them is Dr Victoria Salem, a clinical researcher at Imperial College London.

She is part of a small team working at the university's campus in White City, close to Hammersmith Hospital.

Using groundbreaking research techniques, Dr Salem and her colleagues are going under the microscope to assess whether hormones found deep inside our guts could be used as a form of therapy for type 2 diabetes, the condition's most common form.

The leading research could pave the way for the development of new treatments to drive type 2 diabetes into remission – and spare millions from the danger of an early death.

"We know that bariatric surgery can put type 2 diabetes into remission," explains Dr Salem.

"And I want to understand whether gut hormones could be used as a therapy to produce the same effect in the future."

Diabetes UK – the national charity that is pumping £7 million every year into life-changing breakthroughs in the care, treatment and prevention of the condition – celebrated Dr Salem last week as one of the industry's most inspirational researchers.

She was singled out as a visionary figure in her field and an icon for young women starting out in scientific research, as part of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on Saturday (February 11).

Dr Salem says she is proud to be at the epicentre of vital medical investigations that could save

millions of lives.

"I feel hugely privileged," she adds. "I have got this responsibility to produce research that is really going to make a difference to people with diabetes – hopefully within my lifetime."

Diabetes UK is currently funding more than 50 female scientists in their bid to break down the barriers to finding a cure for diabetes.

If not managed properly the condition can lead to serious consequences, which include sight loss, limb amputation and kidney failure.

Around 90 per cent of people living with the illness have type 2 diabetes, which is brought on because of family history and age but may also be linked to being overweight.

The more serious type 1 diabetes affects only 10 per cent of sufferers and is currently unpreventable.

But the work of Dr Salem and others could yet prove instrumental in tailoring therapy not only for the 4.5 million who live with the condition, but the one million more who have type 2 diabetes and do not realise it.

"All our fantastic researchers play a vital role in helping us to know diabetes and fight diabetes," explains the charity's Dr Emily Burns.

"Our amazing female researchers have had a huge impact on the treatment of diabetes. They will continue to be leaders in the world of diabetes research and care."

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Tory councillors deny 'disastrous' youth club cuts

FROM PAGE 1

Young Westminster Foundation – will plug the gap, although this is disputed by Cllr Hug.

"The Young Westminster Foundation which the council has proposed to help groups fundraise is yet to get off the ground and remains very unlikely to be able to generate what is needed," said Cllr Hug, who represents the Westbourne ward.

"So as a result of these Conservative cuts, from April 1 the Stowe Centre will only be able to provide a replacement one night a week session for 11-19 year olds. This will be nothing near to what use to be provided and is a massive blow to the community and life choices of the young people in the area.

"Stowe has been running a reduced service since the cuts but when it was fully funded service it was open five nights a week for the core youth club with a range of other projects around it including holiday clubs, and things like music and cooking projects.

"I'm hugely worried about what the loss of the service will do in terms of the life chances of the young people on the Warwick, Brindley and Amberley Estates - and that definitely includes the risk that without the opportunities provided and the support of strong role models at the club those young people may be more likely to fall into crime and potential gang activity."

The Stowe Centre prides itself for its vital work in helping local young people turn away from gangs and councillors fear the cuts will mean teenagers are now put in peril of joining the wrong crowd and wrecking their lives through knife crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

"Our work in breaking the cycle of gang culture is spread over the challenging epicentre of cross-border gang violence spilling out of North Kensington, North Westminster and South Brent, and has united the whole community, young and old, in saying no to the sociopathic minority that terrorise entire neighbourhoods," said a spokesman for the centre.

Cllr Hug said: "Labour fought to prevent the council from cutting all council funding from youth clubs and warned their actions could have a disastrous impact.

"Sadly our worst fears are becoming a reality. This heartless and thoughtless Tory cut will damage lives for generations to come. The council leadership should be ashamed of itself."

Westbourne ward councillor Papya Qureshi added: "It's appalling how the council are not valuing how important youth services are to young people in Westminster, as this is the only thing that some young people have and it's being taken away from them. It's a huge loss to our community."

Now Labour councillors have called on Westminster Conservatives to donate to local services the profits from their fundraising dinner in the West End last week.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd was the guest speaker and the Conservatives auctioned a copy of the 'Brexit Bill' signed by Prime Minister Theresa May. Raffle prizes also included a magnum of Veuve Clicquot champagne and lobster and frites with prosciutto at a top West End restaurant.

Tickets for the sold-out dinner ranged from £85 to £500.

Pancho Lewis of the West End Labour Action Team, said: "It's very disappointing to see West End Tories choose to spend time with fat cat donors instead of representing local residents.

"Westminster Conservatives have chosen to gut Stowe Youth Club, a centre that provides vital support to vulnerable young people in need of help. This comes on top of many years of cuts to youth services. That's why we're calling on Westminster Tories to donate all funds raised at the event to youth services in the City of Westminster."

But Cllr Richard Holloway, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Young People, said: "Our priority is to protect the most vulnerable in our society, including young people. As we deal with shrinking budgets we are looking at new and creative ways to maximise our resources.

"It is worth noting that funding for youth clubs across Westminster already comes from many different sources outside of the council."

"We have had to take some difficult decisions on youth clubs, but the Young Westminster Foundation will allow us to raise funds in new and innovative ways.

"This exciting new charity will make sure that youth organisations get greater access to a sustainable pool of funding for the future."

Step forward in sports centre redevelopment

Westminster City Council is hailing "passing a major milestone" in the £28 million redevelopment of Moberly Sports Centre, with the successful water tank testing of two brand new swimming pools.

The centre features the first newly built swimming pools in Westminster since the Queen Mother Sport Centre opened in 1981.

The testing marked the completion of phase one of the Active Queen's Park redevelopment, as the swimming pools get ready to open in spring 2018.

The new swimming pools form part of the new state-of-the-art leisure centre for Queen's Park. Facilities at the new Moberly Sports Centre will include a 25-metre, six-lane swimming pool and dedicated learner pool with movable floor; a spa-sauna; an eight-court sports hall with spectator seating; a boxing gym; a gymnastics and multi-use hall; a health and fitness suite and exercise and dance studios.

The new leisure centre will offer larger facilities than the previous Moberly and current Jubilee sports centres combined.

As part of the redevelopment, a free-to-use outdoor gym and upgraded floodlit multi-use games area in Queen's Park Gardens has been installed, along with a new synthetic pitch at St. Augustine's School, which replaces the pitch at Moberly.

The existing Jubilee Sports Centre is remaining open whilst Moberly is redeveloped. Once the New Moberly Sports Centre is opened, work will begin on a new community sports facility to replace the Jubilee Sports Centre.

Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Environment,



Sports and Community, Westminster City Council, said: "This is fantastic news for local residents, from children stepping into the water for the first time to seasoned competitive swimmers.

"It's clear this redevelopment is bringing a much-needed improvement of sport facilities to Queen's Park.

"This new state-of-the-art venue is an important part of meeting our aim of encouraging people to make healthy choices around taking regular exercise. It will also help ensure our local sports teams can train in world class facilities."

Vote for Westminster's best 2016 Lottery funded project

VOTES are invited for the best winners of Lotto cash after new figures show that £34,676,400 of National Lottery funding was awarded across Westminster last year.

A total of 111 Lottery grants were given out in Westminster during 2016; providing a boost to arts, sports and heritage projects alongside community groups helping those most in need.

A wide variety of local projects received National Lottery grants last year, including:

- £9,970 to Creative Futures UK Limited: The group will use the funding to deliver drop in support sessions for pregnant women and new mothers.

- £9,950 to Art-Alive: The group will use the funding to develop the skills of homeless people by using art work placements to increase prospects.

- £9,500 to Westminster Community Reminiscence and Archive Group for Music Hall and the Great War project.

Now these beneficiaries and any organisation that has ever received National Lottery funding have the possibility of gaining acclaim by entering The National Lottery Awards 2017 - the annual search for the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects - and win more money.

National Lottery Awards winners will receive a £3,000 cash

prize and national recognition at a ceremony to be broadcast on BBC One later in the year.

John Barrowman MBE, presenter of the National Lottery Awards show, pictured, said: "The National Lottery Awards are a fabulous celebration of the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects as voted for by the public.

"The awards rightly put the focus on ordinary people doing extraordinary things with National Lottery funding, whose efforts go such a long way and are indeed changing lives. National Lottery players can be very proud to have contributed towards their fine work."

National Lottery Awards cover seven categories; Sport, Heritage, Arts, Environment, Health, Education and Voluntary/Charity, to reflect the range of funding that the Lottery gives out.

There is also a Special Achievement Award to recognise the outstanding contribution made by an individual to improving the lives of others.

If you wish to nominate your favourite project in this year's National Lottery Awards, tweet @LottoGoodCauses with your suggestions or call 0207 293 3329 to find out more and to enter. Entries must be received by midnight on 7 April.



'Spartacus' movement to keep Crossrail 2 out of Soho

FROM PAGE 1

"The new threat to Soho's authentic soul coming from Crossrail 2 is a real and urgent issue that needs, we feel, to be debated and understood as widely as possible around the country. Soho is not just a metropolitan enclave, after all - far from it - it is a focus, a magnet for the young, creative and open-minded around the country.

"I believe and hope that this petition will do a great deal to focus public awareness and understanding of the dangerous waters lapping up against Soho and the very real and

exciting possibilities that arise from retaining the area's spirit.

"I have supported the Save Soho movement since it began and have assisted its founder Tim Arnold and the Save Soho group whenever possible. Please join us by signing this petition for yours and our Soho."

Mr Arnold added: "This is a national issue, not a local issue. Every taxpayer in the UK will be paying out of their pockets for the £32 billion bill for another London project that will destroy a valuable cultural asset: Soho.

"Sign this petition to stop the Government from wasting your money on demolishing

the world's leading community of diversity, inclusivity and a longstanding legacy to provide space for creativity and freedom of expression.

"That space now has a shelf life of months. We've done everything we can. The rest is down to the people.

"When the Romans came for Spartacus, the slaves said 'I Am Spartacus' to save him. TFL and the Government are coming for Soho. When they ask for Soho, please join us by saying 'I Am Soho' and sign the petition."

The petition is at: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/182649>

Sustainable City Awards

ENTRIES are now being invited for the Sustainable City Awards, which recognise companies and organisations in London that demonstrate excellence in sustainable development.

The awards, run by the London Sustainability Exchange and funded by the City of London Corporation, is a national 'green business' awards scheme that rewards best practice in environmental management and sustainable leadership.

Established in 2001, the awards attract applications from SMEs and charities to multi-national banks and corporations.

"For the past 15 years, the Sustainable City Awards has led the way in terms of rewarding the most sustainable practices and business behaviours," said a City of London spokesman.

"This year's awards are looking to find the best examples of innovation and good practice, to build a smarter, healthier and more environmentally friendly city."

The six award categories include: Health and Wellbeing, Innovative Technology, Innovative Spaces, Sustainable Transport, The Foresight Award for investment analysis and the Sir Peter Parker Award for leadership.

Peter Lisley Assistant Town Clerk & Cultural Hub Director at the City of London Corporation, said: "We welcome organisations which have gone the extra mile and demonstrated excellence in sustainable development to apply."

Samantha Heath, Chief Executive of London Sustainability Exchange added: "It's only by dint of the hard work and imagination of our businesses, hospitals, schools and social enterprises that we will have a smarter, more liveable and healthier city. These awards celebrate these forward-thinking organisations."

"Air quality campaigns and innovative design for buildings are examples of projects that have all been awarded by the scheme in recent years, with last year's winners being environmental law firm ClientEarth.

The ceremony will be hosted by Siemens at its technology centre 'The Crystal', in Royal Victoria docks, in June. The awards are free to enter and no charge is made for attending the awards ceremony. Applications for the 2017 Awards are open until the 31st of March. Organisations can apply at www.lsx.org.uk

Mary Poppins brings a charity cash windfall



Robert Davis, deputy leader of Westminster City Council played Mary Poppins in their award winning London New Year's Day Parade entry this year



The Banks family - part of Westminster's parade winning New Year's Day parade entry

MARY Poppins floated down to Westminster this week with a huge cheque for the Lord Mayor's charities.

The council's fabulous entry to London's New Year's Day Parade, based on the film classic, won first prize

in the borough competition this year capturing the £10,000 prize in the process.

London New Year's Day Parade executive director Bob Bone presented the cheque to Lord Mayor Councillor Steve Summers at

a special reception in Westminster City Hall attended by participants and parade officials.

He said: "This year's parade was in many people's opinion the best in our 31 year history – and Westminster won with aplomb with a truly terrific entry."

"It was obvious to one and all, and the judges, just how much effort had gone in to making it great."

Receiving the funds Councillor Summers said: "January 1 was a great day – that has now raised a great deal of money for two terrific causes."

"I can't tell you how proud I am of everyone who participated – and helped make this happen."

"London's New Year's Day Parade is one of the highlights of the year, seen by tens of millions of people around the world, and Westminster was looking its very best."

The parade entry featured deputy leader Councillor Robert Davis as Mary Poppins, numerous councillors in the guise of various characters from the 60s film – and dozens of youngsters from the Sylvia Young Theatre School.

The prize funds will be split equally between Greenhouse Sports and the Sir Simon Milton Foundation.



An artist's impression of Crossrail Chelsea

Mayor says London will grind to halt without Crossrail 2

BY GEOFF BAKER

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SADIQ Khan has revealed that Crossrail 2 will bring an extra 270,000 people into Central London every morning.

The massive increase of many more people in the overcrowded capital was revealed by the mayor of London when he spoke at the V&A at an annual dinner in aid of the London Transport Museum.

The mayor said that without Crossrail 2 London will grind to a halt – a warning backed by the royal borough council, which is avidly lobbying for a Crossrail station in Chelsea that is bitterly opposed by 10,000 residents and local businesses.

"Crossrail 2 would increase the capital's rail capacity by 10 per cent, bringing in an additional 270,000 people into Central London each morning peak, and cutting journey times, improving connections and accessibility," said the mayor's spokesman.

The mayor revealed Transport for London modelling which shows that without Crossrail 2 at least 17 Underground stations "will buckle under crowding pressures and thousands of passengers arriving at Euston on HS2 phase 2 could lose time saved on their journeys as they will have to queue to board onward trains".

The spokesman said: "Sadiq warns that without Crossrail 2 London will face daily closures at key stations and see time savings from the government's flagship HS2 line lost as a result of onward delays at Euston."

"He believes that only by investing in Crossrail 2 will the transport network be able to cope, with the major project also playing a crucial role in unlocking the capital's economic growth and delivering new affordable homes across London and the South East."

"It would also support the regeneration and development of up to 200,000 new homes and 200,000 new jobs in London's economy, as well as creating 18,000 jobs during construction and supporting a further 60,000 jobs nationwide through its supply chain – boosting the UK economy by tens of billions of pounds."

Mr Khan said: "Crossrail 2 is crucial. It's crucial to meeting our ambitious targets for new affordable homes. It's crucial to unlocking future economic growth in the aftermath of the EU

referendum. It's crucial to ensure that Euston station keeps running smoothly when HS2 opens, and it's crucial if we are to prevent Waterloo, Victoria and many other stations from rush-hour meltdown."

"Half the cost of the project can be met through funding from London but we need the government to meet the other half if we are to avoid this unbearable strain on our transport network. Crossrail 2 is the answer to help the entire country – because when London succeeds, Britain succeeds."

The mayor's Crossrail call was enthusiastically endorsed by Kensington and Chelsea council.

A council spokesman said: "The mayor of London is absolutely right that Crossrail 2 is a massively important scheme for London and we very much hope that a station in Chelsea will be part of it."

"Chelsea is a densely populated area with three major hospitals. It is also a world-famous shopping and visitor destination. Add in that it is poorly served by public transport, heavily congested and has some very poor air quality, and a station ought to be a certainty."

TfL is preparing to submit "a robust updated business case and funding plan" to the Transport Secretary, who is due to make a decision on further government support in the spring. Construction could start in the early 2020s and the railway could be operational by 2033. The TfL case argues that:

- Crowding levels on the South West Main Line into Waterloo would be greater than five passengers standing per square metre by 2031.

- Unprecedented crowding on the Tube by the early 2030s will cause regular station closures and delays with five or more people standing per square metre on some lines.

- When HS2 Phase 1 opens in 2026, total demand for Euston and Euston Square will nearly double to more than 85,000 people during the three-hour morning peak.

- Around two thirds of HS2 arrivals in the morning peak are expected to want to access the Underground. Thousands of passengers arriving daily on HS2 phase 2 will have to wait for onward connections.

- There will also be significant demand for HS2 for those travelling away from London, in the morning peak.

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London New Year's Day Parade executive director Bob Bone presents the parade winning cheque to Lord Mayor Councillor Steve Summers at a special reception in Westminster City Hall



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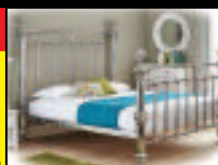


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Heathrow plans for a third runway

Residents urged to make views clear on Heathrow third runway

COUNCILLORS are urging residents to have their say on plans for the third runway at Heathrow, which, they say, have left them feeling "very concerned".

The Government recently began a four-month consultation on plans for a third runway at Heathrow Airport.

It believes a new runway will strengthen the UK's links with the rest of the world, offering new and improved opportunities for tourism and trade.

"But a third runway will also have an environmental impact," said a Kensington and Chelsea Council spokesman.

"The Government is promising to address that impact with a package of measures it describes as 'world class'. It believes expansion can be delivered within existing air quality requirements though this would, in any case, be a condition of planning approval."

The leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council has also urged residents to speak out against plans to expand Heathrow Airport.

Cllr Stephen Cowan said it is important that local voices are heard during the latest phase of consultation over proposals for a third runway.

Cllr Cowan said: "Expanding Heathrow would damage the borough. We don't support it."

The consultation is on a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) on expanding runway capacity and airport infrastructure in the south-east of England.

The draft NPS sets out:

- the need for additional airport capacity in the south-east of England

- why Government believes that need is best met by a north-west runway at Heathrow Airport

- the specific requirements that the new runway will need to meet to gain development consent on issues such as pollution, climate change, habitats, health, good design and cost.

There will be a number of consultation events across London, including one at Kensington Town Hall on Wednesday 1 March. This drop-in event is open to all. It begins at 11am and finishes at 8pm.

It is also possible to participate online. All the background documents and consultation response forms are available at: www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion

The consultation ends at 11.45pm on Thursday 25 May 2017.

To address the worries about noise, climate change and air quality, the Government is proposing a range of counter measures that includes legally binding noise targets, a ban of six and a half hours on scheduled night flights and new technology to make airspace more efficient and reduce the need for stacking, thereby making journeys faster and more environmentally friendly.

"We remain very concerned about the environmental impact of a third runway," said Cllr Tim Coleridge, the Council's Cabinet Member for Transport.

"Our hope is that the 'world-class package of measures' that has been promised will address our concerns. We will be studying it closely before making our own submission to the Government."

Cash boost in fight against Royal Borough inequality

A KENSINGTON and Chelsea charity has received a £100,000 grant to help its fight to bridge the gap in the borough with the greatest inequality in Britain.

The City of London Corporation's charitable funder, City Bridge Trust, has awarded the grant to the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation (KCF) to expand its work supporting and strengthening local voluntary groups and residents.

"KCF believes that when people think of Kensington and Chelsea, they picture prosperity and privilege, yet the borough has the greatest gap between wealth and opportunity of any area in the UK," said a spokesman for the Trust.

KCF was set up in 2008 and raises support from local people, businesses and schools to improve lives in the royal borough.

Since 2008, the charity has raised nearly £4million to improve lives in Kensington and Chelsea. KCF also has its own campaigns which it delivers through local charity partners to address specific issues in the Borough including:

Winter Warmth - which helps older people living poverty.

Young Sparks - which gives local children in need better opportunities.

Hands Across the Borough - which was recently launched to address isolation and loneliness.

The charity's current strategy is called 'Reaching out and Reaching more'. KCF has ambitions to grow its network of supporters - be it individuals, schools or businesses.

"The grant from City Bridge Trust will mean the charity can focus on extending its business network to encourage more companies to support local charities and residents in need," said the spokesman.

Alison Gowman, Chairman of the City of London Corporation's City Bridge Trust Committee, said: "It is great that we are able to support an organisation that is doing its utmost to tackle disadvantage and inequality across Kensington and Chelsea."

"The support they provide to small charities and local voluntary groups across the borough is invaluable. The foundation has grown significantly over the past eight years and is now helping thousands of people annually through their campaigns and support services."

"City Bridge Trust is committed to tackling disadvantage across the capital and making London a fairer and better

place to live."

Susan Dolton, Director of the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation, added: "Being awarded this grant from City Bridge Trust is fantastic news for us. It means that we will be able to expand our work with local businesses for the next two years, encouraging them to support charities based in this Borough and through them to help improve the lives of local people."

"Our model is to make it easier for businesses to get involved in the community by helping them to make informed decisions about fundraising, in-kind support and giving their time and talents."

"We believe that there is huge potential to grow relationships between local businesses of all sizes in this Borough to support and enrich the lives of everyone who lives and works here and this grant will help us achieve that."

City Bridge Trust is London's biggest independent grant giver, making grants of £20 million a year to tackle disadvantage across the capital. The Trust has awarded around 7,500 grants totalling over £350 million since it first began in 1995.



Yorkshire Building Society has launched a three-year charity partnership with End Youth Homelessness

Building society in a bid to help end youth homelessness

A FULHAM building society is to hold its first homelessness 'action day' after signing up to a new partnership with a national rough sleepers charity.

The North End Road branch of Yorkshire Building Society has teamed up with End Youth Homelessness in a bid to help the borough's most vulnerable people off the streets. The society is aiming to raise £750,000 over the next three years to help hundreds of young people move into their own rented homes.

According to official figures, more than 100 16 to 25-year-olds in Hammersmith and Fulham received homelessness support from the council last year.

Members of staff at the Fulham branch will be raising money towards the project by selling trolley coin key rings and staging a 'give

a bear a home' competition.

Neil Murray, manager of the Fulham branch, said: "We are proud to launch our new partnership with End Youth Homelessness and hope our customers and members of the public in Fulham really get behind us."

"Our action days will raise funds for rental deposit guarantees, home essentials grants and practical help for homeless young people seeking to live independently."

Rosie Mellor, partnership manager at End Youth Homelessness, added: "Through our partnership with Yorkshire Building Society we will not only be supporting 700 homeless young people into their own rented homes, we will also aim to break down the barriers that homeless young people face."

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Street lights powering up electric vehicles

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A STREETCAR named de wire, Street lights connected to UK Power Networks electricity network in Kensington and Chelsea have been converted into charge points for electric vehicles – a first for central London.

The trial by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, UK Power Networks, and Ubitricity has started with the conversion of the first three Kensington street lights into electric vehicle (EV) charge points.

This installation allows two local residents to charge their vehicles from a street light near their front door, and receive accurate bills for their electricity use via their smart phone or home PC.

During the trial in Onslow Gardens, Kensington, drivers who previously charged their EV at a nearby shopping centre now park and plug in at one of the street lights that have been fitted with charging technology. Access to the charge points is managed with smart charging cables. This way the amount of electricity being used can be accurately determined and paid for.

“The trial which started in November could pave the way for greater EV use and tackle air pollution in London by allowing drivers to conveniently charge their vehicles closer to home,” said a council spokeswoman.

In outer London, 33 per cent of households have no access to off-street parking to charge an EV, and in inner London this rises to 46 per cent.

Councillor Tim Coleridge, the Royal Borough’s Cabinet Member for Highways, said: “A growing number of residents have made enquiries about the availability of electric vehicle charging points here in Kensington and Chelsea.

“The use of street lights as charging points

provides electric vehicle owners and users charging opportunities closer to where they live and work. If this trial is successful we will look at exploring other opportunities for using street lights in this way.”

Mark Burton, from UK Power Networks, said: “We are delighted to work with the Royal Borough and Ubitricity on a trial to allow more EVs to charge via street lighting columns connected to our network. This technology avoids the need to build new electricity network and makes better use of the cables, particularly in the daytime when the lights are switched off.

“This solution means we can monitor how much electricity is being used in order to maintain reliable electricity supplies as more EVs connect to our networks. It should also release more parking spaces currently set aside as dedicated EV charging bays, resulting in less street furniture and fewer excavations to install new charging points.”

UK Power Networks agreed to upgraded fuses at the first three points to allow more electricity to be safely drawn from the cable, making sure local electricity supplies remain safe and reliable.

“The Kensington and Chelsea trial could not have happened without the support of UK Power Networks and the Royal Borough. The trial means that local residents can for the very first time charge right outside their front door. In one case this has removed the need for driving over to a large shopping centre once a week to charge, reducing both congestion and electricity consumption.”

In December the Department for Transport’s On Street Residential Grant Scheme (£2.5m), launched guidance for local authorities UK-wide to apply for funding for provision of charge points in residential areas, where there is a lack of off-street parking. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-for-local-authorities-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints.



From street lamp to car - using Ubitricity technology to power up electric vehicles on street during a trial in Kensington

Traffic penalties

HAMMERSMITH roundabout and the Bagley’s Lane junction in Fulham were among the top hotspots in London for traffic penalties last year.

More than 100,000 penalties were issued in the borough in 2016, according to figures released by London councils.

Town hall bosses put the number down to the huge volume of traffic passing through the borough into central London.

Almost one million tickets were issued for moving traffic offences across London last year.



Department for Transport

HEATHROW EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Have your say

The government has announced Heathrow as its preferred scheme for a new runway in the southeast and is holding a public consultation over the next four months.

There’ll be events around Heathrow where you can come along to share your views, ask questions and learn about the package of measures to support local communities.

Come and talk to us, we’re here to listen.

Have your say, visit

www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion

Find an event near you

13 February	Southall	01 March	Kensington
14 February	Uxbridge	03 March	Windsor
15 February	Kingston	04 March	West Drayton
16 February	Bracknell	06 March	Hammersmith
17 February	Wimbledon	07 March	Maidenhead
18 February	Ealing	10 March	Richmond
20 February	Staines	11 March	Gerrards Cross
23 February	Twickenham	13 March	Slough
24 February	Putney	15 March	Isleworth
27 February	Hounslow		
28 February	Stanwell Moor		



Members of the HG Walter team receive the award from Tom Parker Bowles

Dream debut for butcher’s shop

A BARONS Court butcher’s shop has been crowned the best in the land after making the cut at a national awards ceremony.

HG Walter was named the “supreme champion” at the industry bash, securing bragging rights over London’s other butchers for 2017.

The top accolade from the Butchers Q Guild represents the pinnacle of achievement in a high-profile event regarded as one of the toughest product evaluation tests in the country.

HG Walter won full marks for its bourbon glazed beef short ribs before being handed the coveted “supreme champion” title – the highest honour a Q Guild Butcher can receive.

It was the first time the shop had even entered the awards, making it a dream debut

for brothers Adam and Daniel Heanen.

“It’s all down to our fantastic staff,” said Daniel, who owns the shop in Palliser Road with his brother.

“This is a family business and we’re full of people who are passionate about food and make it one big family. We all love what we do.”

The shop opened its doors in 1972 and now supplies more than 30 Michelin star restaurants.

It is known as the go-to butcher for many of London’s top chefs, food writers and critics – including acclaimed expert Tom Parker Bowles, who presented the brothers with their award.

HG Walter scooped five gold awards in total, also winning praise for its honey roast ham and scotch eggs.



Points of view

Have
your say

Email Jack Dixon
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Plea to school over library lease

An open letter to the
governing board of Notting
Hill Prep Ltd

WE write to restate our
request that you do not sign
the lease for 108 Ladbroke
Grove, the first purpose-
built public library in the
area, proudly serving the
community for 125 years.
We write to you in this

forum because you have
recently made clear that you
have nothing to say to us
and that you believe that
our whole campaign should
be directed solely at the
council.
Friends of North
Kensington Library have
been campaigning for some
time to keep the historically
important library building
on Ladbroke Grove in public
use.
In the past year, we have
held public marches,

petitioned the council,
spoken to a full council
meeting, contacted
councillors, engaged with
the planning and
consultation process, and
scrutinised the decision-
making process, all in order
to open the public dialogue
about the future of the
building that the council has
offered to you.
We think it important to
point this process out, as in
communication with your
head, Jane Cameron, and

John Mackay, registered
director of the company, and
co-chair of your board of
governors, you have
suggested that we take up
our cause with the council –
as indeed we have.
We write to you once
more, to give you the
opportunity publicly to
weigh in on the only issue
over which you have
agency: signing the lease for
North Kensington Library.
Our members are
currently collecting
signatories to a petition
directly calling for you to
refuse to sign the lease that
you have been offered on
this building. In our
communications with you,
we have invited you to
engage in dialogue with the
wider community about
alternative options for the
expansion of your business;
we have recalled your own
publicly stated
commitments to be a school
engaged with the local
community; we have made
suggestions as to how to
move forward with your
plans; and even offered our
support in proposing that
you lease the whole of the
new £11 million building
proposed on Lancaster Road.
Our petition requesting
that you refuse the lease
offered is in no way a
demand that your business
cease to expand. We merely
ask that you seek to expand
in ways that do not further
reduce the wider
community's access to the
much-loved building on
Ladbroke Grove in
particular, and in ways that
do not support the loss of
public space and community
assets in general.

We do not ask you to
intervene on the council's
process or argument: we
simply ask you to do what
you can do, which is to
refuse the lease you have
been offered.

It is tiresome here to have
to refute the arguments
offered by the council about
your business' take-up of the
lease of North Kensington
Library, because clearly
these are arguments that we
have made, and continue to
press, to the council itself.

However, as you
continually refer us to the
council in our
communication with you, it
is worth precisising our case
to them for your own
records; and to clarify to you
that in fact we do not ask
you to comment, respond to,
or defend the council's own
disingenuous and outright
misleading narrative about
the "necessity" of removing
the building on Ladbroke
Grove from public use.

In fact, we ask only that
you do not sign the lease –
which is clearly something
you do have agency over,
despite your repeated
assertions to us that the
entire decision is in the
hands of the council.



In the first place, the
decision to take North
Kensington Library building
out of the public realm
should be a decision for the
wider community, who were
not consulted about any
aspect of this proposal until
after you had been
approached and offered the
lease on the building. We do
not ask you to defend this.
Secondly, you were
offered the building in a
closed process, effectively
disabling the community's
ability to offer alternative
plans for the use of the
building. We do not ask you
to defend this.

Thirdly, the head of the
council committee who took
the decision, Rock Feilding-
Mellen, has his own
children's names down for
places on your school, a
clear conflict of interest that
he only begrudgingly
declared after pressure from
our campaign. We do not ask
you to defend this.

Fourth, you have been
offered a lease which
requires the taxpayer to foot
the build of the Grade II
listed exterior, meaning that
the taxpayer is not relieved
of the cited expense of the
upkeep of the building under
the proposals. We do not ask
you to defend this.

Fifth, you have been
offered a discount on the
lease over the first five years
to offset the cost of internal
upgrade and repair work.
This means that the
taxpayer is effectively
funding the upgrade and
repair work that the council
have claimed was
unaffordable for the
taxpayer. We do not ask you
to defend this.

Sixth, the building could
not be turned into flats or
coffee shops if it were not
offered to you, as it has D1
status, it would need to
remain an educational
institution. We do not ask
you to defend this.

Seventh, the revenue
stream that leasing the
current building to you (at
£365,000 a year) for the
proposed 25 years will not
offset the cost of moving the
current library (£11 million).
We do not ask you to defend
this.

Eighth, the new library
will not be "bigger" unless
you discount the unused
space in the current library
(unused because it requires
the repairs that the taxpayer
will be paying for you to
have). We do not ask you to
defend this.

Ninth, the new library
will not be "better" as it will
not have a designated
children's library, as the
current library does, it will
not have separated
computer rooms for study,
and is not even guaranteed
to house the whole
collection of the current
library. We do not ask you to
defend this.

Tenth, the current
building is fully wheelchair-
accessible, according to the
only research ever
conducted on this issue by
the council. The council are
therefore being
disingenuous in citing lack
of accessibility as a reason
to move the library. We do
not ask you to defend this.

Eleventh, ours is the
richest council in the
country, with close to half a
billion pounds in reserve,
who nevertheless intend to
use recent changes in the
law to raise the extra cash
for frontline services,
particularly social care, that
they say they need. It is
therefore disingenuous to
suggest that the money from
this lease is intended or
required for frontline
services. We do not ask you
to defend this.

Twelfth, the council's
spending plans have
reduced spending on
adult social care, year on
year, and so the claim that
extra is required for adult
social care is not borne out
by the council's own
figures, and means that the
lease on the current
library building is unrelated
to the costs of adult social
care, as has been claimed.
We do not ask you to defend
this.

Finally, the new building
is not a new library but a
new multi-use space, some of
which will house
consolidated library
services, but the majority of
which is earmarked for the
use of private schools.

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Westminster & City NEWS pick up points			
Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	W4 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9ED
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points			
Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tivistock Road		W11 1AN

Fulham Chronicle pick up points			
Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points			
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points			
Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

your letters and emails

We think you are probably aware of this last point, given that your own private school business has been offered a chair on the steering committee of the new building, alongside your old "frenemy", Chepstow House School.

We do not ask for you to defend this, although we cannot help but wonder why you would not offer to lease a bigger portion of the new building, producing the revenue stream the council (disingenuously claim) that they require.

To be clear: Friends of North Kensington Library appeal to the governors of Notting Hill Preparatory Ltd to refuse the lease of the current building on Ladbroke Grove, and seek to expand their business premises elsewhere.

We have collected hundreds of signatures of people who support this appeal, including parents of children at the school.

Friends of North Kensington Library understand and are aware of the arguments made by the council about their actions in this process, and do not hold Notting Hill Preparatory Ltd responsible for the disingenuity, inaccuracy and corruption of the process which has led to RBKC offering the lease at 108 Ladbroke Grove to Notting Hill Preparatory Ltd. We do not ask you to engage in those arguments or defend them. We simply ask, with the voice of hundreds of your neighbours, friends, and parents of your school, that you do not sign this dishonourable lease.

Eve Wedderburn, Jacob Rety, Chris Bushell and Toby Laurent Belson – on behalf of the Friends of North Kensington Library

Ministers, hang heads in shame

MINISTERS should collectively hang their heads in shame for their decision to end the Dubs Amendment, which was helping to transform the lives of children caught up in the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

In London, we have a proud history of welcoming and supporting refugees seeking sanctuary and helping them to rebuild their lives.

That's why as an MP I voted in favour of the Dubs Amendment, and it's why as mayor I am proud to have worked with London councils who have provided support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, including those who have arrived via the Dubs route.

As a country, we cannot shun our responsibility to do our part in helping some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

This is bigger than party politics and I strongly urge the government to reverse its decision and to work with London councils to support our ongoing efforts to help vulnerable children who are in desperate need.

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

Get ready for ugly tower block No 2

A PLANNING application has been sent in to Hammersmith and Fulham council to demolish landmark House, the hideous 18-storey office block in Black's Road.

But before you all cheer too loudly the proposal is to replace it with something just as ugly and even taller – 28 storeys.

The new scheme has been designed by the architects Rogers Stirk Harbour – so it is hardly a surprise that it should be so awful. If you wish to register your objection with the council you have until February 28 to do so.

The proposal should be seen in the context of plans by the council and the mayor of London to clutter the skyline with appalling new tower blocks in the Hammersmith town centre.

Yet all this would seem to be quite in line with the Labour council's planning policy.

The fundamental problem is that the policy is at odds with the wishes of residents.

For new development to be popular it must be



Ministers should collectively hang their heads in shame for their decision to end the Dubs Amendment, which was helping to transform the lives of children caught up in the ongoing humanitarian crisis, says mayor Sadiq Khan



beautiful, traditional and sympathetic.

Cllr Harry Phibbs, Conservative, Ravenscourt Park Ward

Have you time to help the elderly?

AS we get older our group of friends diminishes.

At 30 you might know 30 people, at 80 it might be eight. It's amazing how profound the people "around" us are and how in a subtle sense we rely on them and need them to socialise with, to have fun with, to, in a way, confirm who we are, to share our opinions, to, as The Beatles said, help us "get by".

When that group depletes, a sort of confinement can occur which has been proven to have an unhealthy effect on us as beings. But people go on. In fact, a lot of older people rightly pride themselves on their ability to "manage on their own".

This may be fine when there is health and strength but it can become insurmountable after such things as admission to hospital or an operation.

Recovering, say, from a hip operation, they are faced

with the prospect of no-one to welcome them home, to help them "settle in", to make sure they have a few provisions or even someone to talk to.

If you have ever had an operation, going home is a poignant moment where recuperation hopefully starts and one where a little help or empathy is so valuable and treasured.

Currently, and it is not the fault of skilful and willing clinicians, there are some older people who may go home alone without such human warmth.

Age UK Hammersmith and Fulham is trying, among others, to support our local hospital (Charing Cross) by forming a little group of volunteers who may be able, for a few hours a month, to offer to escort or drive an older person from hospital and help them when they walk back through their front door for the first time. Offering some tea, a helping hand and a smile.

If you are attracted to this role and see its significance, please contact us at our centre at 105 Greyhound Road, W6, or on 0207 386 2657 for an initial discussion.

Peter Thellusson, Age UK Hammersmith and Fulham

Jarring view near Tube station

I WISH to share my comments regarding an article by local councillor Emma Dent Coad, interviewed on Tuesday November 29 about the Design Museum.

I loved reading your article on the new location of the Design Museum, which is proving very successful judging by the number of visitors it attracts, especially at weekends.

I think that the blocks built around the old Commonwealth Institute are oversized, and even more so if compared to the Institute itself and surrounding Holland Park.

One block is taller than its neighbouring block (an older building on high street) and its "twin block", and as one strolls to the Design Museum entrance, a balcony hangs at a straight angle over a unique sloping roof of the Design Museum/Commonwealth building, unfortunately.

That same block is taller than the cinema or post office across the road too.

I analyse the overall result of the blocks around the Design Museum as some planning "urbanistic" mistake, which is a pity as the venue attracts many visitors to the high street and Holland Park.

It's even more jarring walking along the high street from the Tube station, often against the glorious colours across the sky of the setting sun.

J Cattaneo

Early-years policy is disaster, Tories

RECENTLY I visited Clyde Nursery School in Deptford. It was a pleasure to be shown around by head teacher Cathryn Kinsey. However, Cathryn informed me that Clyde's future has been left hanging in the balance.

Last year the government announced that all early-years provision is to be funded using the same formula. This is extremely

bad news for Clyde, Chelwood Nursery School in Brockley, and other nurseries across the country who, unlike many other early-years providers, are subject to overhead expenses and Ofsted inspections.

For Clyde Nursery School this change will equate to an approximately 40 per cent reduction in funding and the amount they receive per hour for each child will go down by 35 per cent.

To make matters worse, recently it was revealed that the cuts will come into force this April, rather than the expected date in 2018.

The nursery is rated outstanding by OFSTED and when chatting with Cathryn she told me how they aim to give every child the very best chance in life.

Investment in early years is one of the best ways to close the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged children and wealthier counterparts.

The government are cutting vital funding to education with no regard for the long-term effects.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates that £1 in every £5 of all spending on public services is needed because of the impact poverty has on people's lives. £9 billion is lost in tax revenue and additional benefits spending resulting from dealing with the symptoms of poverty. That's £78 billion a year. For those in government who aren't prompted by the human cost of nursery-school closures, surely the economic cost must do it for them.

Young people can't rely on luck to get them out of poverty but they can rely on properly funded schools – and these schools need to be able to rely on the government.

I hope to raise this in Parliament at the next given opportunity and will be writing to the minister responsible for early years and childcare.

I hope that the government will revisit this disastrous policy and ensure nursery schools have their funding protected.

Vicky Foxcroft, MP for Lewisham Deptford

OPINION

Queens Park Rangers designed to rid our schools of hate and intolerance.

The club has teamed up with action group Show Racism the Red Card, the National Union of Teachers and Hammersmith and Fulham council to steer the project, which will include special workshops in five schools in the north of the borough combined

with visits to QPR's Loftus Road stadium.

It is a fine example of how sport can influence lives, especially among youngsters who idolise their heroes on the pitch.

Our other local teams, Fulham and Chelsea, also have a proud record when it comes to community action.

Only last month, the Whites kicked off a 'sporting memories' scheme geared towards helping

supporters with dementia by reminiscing over seasons past, while millions will be pumped back into the local area when the Premier League leaders begin their Stamford Bridge stadium rebuild.

Football clubs across the country should take note of the commendable efforts made by our West London teams to give back to their communities.

It is, after all, more than just a game.

IN a way that no other sport can rival, football holds a special place in the heart of our national culture.

Every week millions of fans up and down the country count down the hours until Saturday comes. For many supporters, those 90 minutes – and the water-cooler conversations that follow – are enough to sustain them for the rest of the week.

But the beautiful game has become much more than a

pleasant weekend distraction. While the media often focuses on the soulless side of the sport – the astronomical wage bills, the shady backroom deals, the spiralling ticket prices and the trickery of players on the pitch – many of the top clubs in London are pioneering positive changes in their local communities.

This week we report on the launch of the Stop the Hate campaign in Shepherd's Bush, an educational initiative led by

Geoff Baker *love the life savers*

If it had not been for the brilliance and care of NHS hospital doctors and nurses, it is most likely that my son would have died at his birth 23 years ago and quite probably his mum would have done so too.

NHS hospital doctors and nurses also saved the life of my eldest granddaughter when she was born frighteningly-premature three years ago.

So I have nothing but the greatest respect and affection for NHS hospital doctors and nurses. I put them above everybody else in society and if I had my way it would be they who would be living in the mansions of Knightsbridge and not those bankers and financiers who got to live there because of the moral emptiness of our valuing moneymaking over lifesaving.

I have recently criticised those many in the capital who have marched against the election of President Trump – because I don't believe that how Americans vote is any of the business of the British – but I would march, demonstrate, riot and quite possibly throw petrol bombs myself if ever any authority threatened to entirely privatise NHS doctors and nurses.

Like most people reading this, although possibly not the elite bankers of Knightsbridge, in my lifetime I have known some hospital doctors and many nurses as dear personal friends. Their dedication, their tireless work ethic and their compulsion to do whatever is possible



Geoff Baker rails against NHS pen pushers

to better the lives of others has always struck me as exemplary and I do not believe that any other profession would endure the disproportionate lack of appreciation that they do.

No other profession is so vital to this city; not teachers, certainly not any form

of politician, not public servants, not journalists, not engineers, not IT geeks, not musicians nor artists and, clearly if you get the drift of my personal beliefs, definitely not bankers.

Without NHS doctors and nurses, we would have had it and it appals me how little we seem to appreciate both that and them.

But.

The but is that the wonder which is the NHS is almost entirely predicated upon the work of doctors and nurses. Because of them, we praise and highly-regard the health service. But does the health service deserve this esteem?

If you take away the work of doctors and nurses, put that to one side, does the rest of the NHS hospital system stack up to be worthy of our acclaim? In some areas, no. In some departments it is as is the case with all other professions – journalism, public service, engineering and, obviously, banking – a bolt-hole for the inept and incompetent.

Management, bureaucracy and administration of the NHS is my target here. At the moment, I have really got it in for them.

This distaste, loathing is slightly too strong a word, is because I have been waiting for quite a long time to hear from one particular NHS

hospital on whether the CT scan that they gave me has discovered whether I have lung cancer or not.

Statistically, it is entirely probable that I might have as I smoke heavily and have smoked heavily for 45 years. And when I say I smoke, I mean that I really smoke; not for me has a puff ever been on any of those poofy low-tar fags like Silk Cut, god forbid any of that trendy activity practiced by vapers, I'm a Marlboro Red man, 30 a day on average and 40 when press officers are kicking me around by camouflaging the facts that I believe the public need to know.

According to my research, it takes just minutes for an expert to assess a scan and determine that there are signs of cancer. But, of course, because the NHS workload is so great it takes a while longer for the administration departments to get the word out to the patient; according to current guidelines, the typing pool aims to manage the task within a target of 62 days.

So you can imagine my irritation, anxiety and anger that I have been waiting for more than 150 days to get the results of my last scan, which was ordered because my consultant noticed on a previous scan some sign of something that he wasn't entirely happy about.

To be honest, although at times – like today – I do get furious about it, overall I don't much care.

My life has turned out to be such a disappointing failure of hopes and

promise that an early death would top off my bad luck just marvellously. But there are many others for whom knowing whether they are going to peg it or not has some importance.

People like to know these things, so that they can make those vital arrangements like cancelling the milk and putting the cat out.

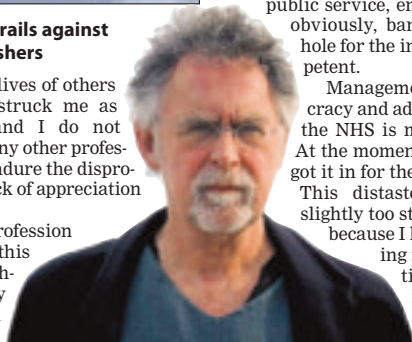
Clearly I do not blame the doctors and nurses for any of this, I blame the management and the questionable way that they have arranged for how hospitals should be run.

And I wonder, is it because they are essentially just clerks that they seem to have little understanding for how it affects those who wait and wait for test results or an operation?

Would matters be massively improved if you could not work in any department of a hospital without some sort of clinical training? Would that give you a better appreciation of your customers' needs and fears, especially among those at the top?

The Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt recently said that doctors and nurses should be put in charge of running our hospitals, as they are in Canada where 74 per cent of managers are clinicians and in Sweden, where the number is an even more sensible 94 per cent. In Britain, the figure is a pathetic 54 per cent.

Let's throw out unqualified management. I don't want my life, or more importantly yours, to be in the hands of some useless clerk who takes five months to write a letter.



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Call for football clubs to pay to police their own matches

LONDON leaders are putting the boot in against the city's wealthy football clubs – demanding that they and not taxpayers should pick up the “eye-watering” bill for keeping fans safe.

Members of the London Assembly say it is “outrageous” that taxpayers have to meet the cost of the Met policing the matches and they are calling on Sadiq Khan to fight for a change in the law which would enable the Met to recover costs from the clubs.

“During the 2015/16 football season, the number of police officers deployed to football clubs cost London taxpayers more than £5 million – that’s the equivalent of employing 93 constables for a year,” said a spokesman for the Assembly.

“The London Assembly has agreed a motion that asks Mayor Sadiq Khan to lobby the Government for a change in the law to allow the Metropolitan Police to recover policing costs and it is calling on the Mayor to write to professional football clubs in London asking them to voluntarily meet the costs incurred by the Metropolitan Police for policing their commercial activity.

Assembly member Andrew Dismore, who proposed the motion, said: “It is outrageous that clubs, who can afford to pay their players thousands upon thousands of pounds a week, expect the tax payer to pick up the bill for anything that happens outside their ground.

“This is placing a big strain on Met

resources and it’s time for clubs to dig deep. They are depriving London of nearly 100 extra officers a year, and it’s quite clear the law needs to change.

“I am delighted that the London Assembly has supported this motion. The Home Secretary Amber Rudd must urgently intervene to ensure that Londoners are not left footing the eye-watering bill for these super rich clubs.

“While we wait for the Government to take action, London clubs should put their hands in their extremely deep pockets and stop sending taxpayers the bill.”

Caroline Pidgeon, who seconded the motion, said: “The Met’s Commissioner has warned Londoners of the immense budget pressures now facing our police service with the possible prospect of thousands of police officers’ posts being lost.

“At a time when budgets are so incredibly stretched it cannot be right that commercial football teams, some of which are owned by billionaires and paying out million pound salaries to their players, are not paying the full police costs generated by their matches.”

The full text of the motion is: “This Assembly puts on record its dismay at the cost to Londoners of policing top flight football matches in the capital. In the 2015/16 season alone, the net cost of officers deployed to football club related operations across London was



over £5 million – this would equate to 93 constables on the average salary.

“In 2012, the High Court ruled that clubs can only be charged for policing inside the stadiums or on their land. There is no legal right for the Met to recover costs for managing travelling supporters or policing incidents that occur outside the ground.

“At a time of increasing pressure on the Capital’s policing budgets it is unacceptable the Metropolitan Police Service should pay for the cost of policing the matches of football clubs who can

afford to pay their players hundreds of thousands of pounds a week.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor to lobby the Government for changes to the law that would enable the Metropolitan Police Service to recover costs for policing operations outside of the stadium. In the meantime the Mayor should write to the capital’s professional football clubs and invite them to do the decent thing by agreeing on a voluntary basis to meet the full reasonable costs incurred by the Met of policing their commercial activities, including football matches.”

Environmental film

HAMMERSMITH actor David Gyasi, pictured, has starred in a new film that aims to influence government policy on climate change.

The 37-year-old, who has appeared in hit movies Cloud Atlas and Interstellar, plays the lead in Love Song alongside Charles Dance and Miranda Richardson.

The short film is the centre-piece of Show The Love, an annual campaign organised by major environmental charities.

Mr Gyasi said: “I was really excited to be asked to take part in this very moving film.”



Stylish living show

OLYMPIA exhibition centre will host its first house and garden festival later this year.

The four-day event brings together three major lifestyle shows – the Spirit of Summer Fair, the House Fair and Grow London.

Organisers are promising to create the “ultimate celebration of summer and stylish living”.

More than 500 exhibitors will gather for the event between June 21 and 24. Tickets are on sale for £16 in advance or £20 on the door.

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Whistlestop tour to assure EU leaders 'London is Open'

Mayor to champion the capital's cause with Europe's political leaders

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

GUTSY Sadiq Khan is to put his head in the lion's mouth with a five-city Euro tour after the Government triggers Article 50 to quit the EU.

Although the official notice to leave will worsen the UK's status as the pariah of Europe, the Mayor of London is to make a special case plea for the capital to senior politicians and city leaders who are furious that Britain is leaving the Euro club.

"Sadiq will visit five major European cities next month to declare that London remains the number-one destination for investment, business and tourism, and to discuss the capital's needs from the Brexit negotiations," said the Mayor's spokesman.

"Shortly after the Government is expected to trigger Article 50 and begin formal negotiations with the EU, the Mayor will visit Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Madrid and Warsaw over six days in to strengthen the historic economic, business and cultural ties London shares with its European neighbours.

"Sadiq will use the trip to make it clear that London continues to welcome people from across the world to work, study or visit. His 'London Is Open' programme is expected to include meetings with senior politicians, city leaders and business leaders."

Talks are expected to cover London's needs from the Brexit negotiations and key issues that the capitals have in common with London, including air quality, the night-time economy and the need for greater social integration. There will also be discussions of the importance of joint security work in the aftermath of Brexit, to help keep London and Europe safe from terrorist attacks.

"In Brussels, Sadiq will meet with senior EU representatives and deliver a keynote speech, in



Sadiq Khan says 'any Brexit deal must work for London'

which he is expected to lay out London's requirements from the Brexit negotiations and argue that London and other European cities will need to work closer together than ever before in the aftermath of Brexit," said the spokesman.

"He will tell senior business leaders he will meet on the trip that, despite Brexit, London will remain the best city in the world in which to do business. The Mayor will point out that the flow of ideas and talent into London from overseas has always been the key to the cities' success, and say that not only are visitors welcome in London but they are celebrated for the many contributions they make."

Sadiq Khan said: "I want to take the message directly to Europe that London will always remain open to engaging, trading and doing business with our friends across Europe. Our connections on the continent are more important than ever before and, regard-

less of Brexit, we will continue to work closely together for our mutual benefit.

"I promised to be the most pro-business Mayor this city has ever seen and it is vital that we demonstrate to our partners overseas that despite Brexit we remain open to business, investment, talent and ideas."

Last September the Mayor led a trade delegation of 30 fast-growing companies to the United States to strengthen business links between London, Chicago and New York. The start-ups accompanying the Mayor met with investors, business leaders and entrepreneurs, generating investment and trade opportunities for London.

"As a direct consequence of the visit several of those companies are now negotiating deals with major US clients and one London business has already doubled its US revenue following the trip," said the spokesman.

Following the decision to leave

the EU, Sadiq Khan has championed London's cause – the only region in England that voted to remain.

"He has been clear that when Article 50 is triggered by the end of March, London must secure privileged access to the single market. He believes this is critical for London's future growth and prosperity and is fundamental to keeping the capital's businesses globally competitive," said the spokesman.

"The Mayor has also campaigned for London businesses to retain full access to the very best talent from around the globe, and has issued a stark warning that a 'Hard Brexit' would risk having to explain to future generations why we knowingly put their economy, their prosperity and their place on the world stage in such peril."

The Mayor added: "I accept the result of the EU referendum and the democratic will of the British people – but now we must secure a deal that protects our economy and prosperity for future generations. Britain only succeeds when London succeeds, so any Brexit deal must work for London.

"That is why I am also announcing our intention to publish a London Brexit blueprint, which will outline exactly what we need in order to protect London's economy over the years ahead.

"We have to strike a deal that safeguards London's position as the best city in the world to do business – including maintaining the best possible access to the single market and retaining our ability to attract talent from Europe and around the world.

"As we head into the thick of negotiations with the EU, the Government must hear from the leaders of business, finance and science on London's needs. That is why my Brexit Expert Advisory Panel is going to play a key role in developing and advocating London's needs."



We've lost that loving feeling

ONE in every 10 women in London expect a romantic gift costing more than £200, a new survey has revealed.

But a lot of them will be out of luck because the research has also revealed that most of the capital has lost that loving feeling.

The survey of couples by Glowing Embers, a wood-burning stoves company, revealed that 58 per cent never go out to celebrate Valentine's Day.

The alleged most romantic day of the year has lost its buzz for many lovers, with a third claiming it is too expensive to celebrate with a special meal and one fifth saying they had too much work to do.

Other excuses not to play Cupid included "too tired", ticked by 13 per cent, no childcare (9 per cent) and "don't agree with the over-commercialised concept" (25 per cent).

"You can forget the expensive chocolates and dozen roses too," said a spokesman for the survey.

"Although our friends' social media statuses would have us believe they are being showered with lavish gifts, it appears that most couples are just not buying it – with 64 per cent of us not purchasing a gift for our loved ones.

"Even couples who have the urge to splurge believe there should be a spending limit of £20 with seven in 10 duos agreeing their partner should keep to this budget when purchasing a gift for them.

"But although they say that money can't buy you love, for some ladies Valentine's Day is all about the money. Going against the general consensus, over 1 in 10 ladies do expect a gift of £200 or more – a figure seven times greater than what their male partners expect.

Richard Fewings, Director of Glowing Embers, said: "Our results really do show that most of us feel that Valentine's Day is just too expensive and a way for florists and shops to make us part with our money, leaving even us romantics to feel cynical about the whole occasion."

"However, we don't need to do much to get back to the real meaning of the occasion which should be just to show your loved one they are special. A bottle of wine by the fire, a home-made card or running your partner a bath can be a romantic gesture and a great way to keep a passionate fire burning. Staying at home for Valentine's Day shouldn't be just another night glued to your phone or Netflix."

Assembly members back call for national HIV memorial



HIV/AIDS memorial statue in Brighton

THE London Assembly is backing moves for a national HIV memorial to be erected in the capital.

The memorial would pay tribute to the men, women and children who have died from HIV and AIDS in the UK and abroad. The United Nations estimates that there have been some 39 million HIV and AIDS-related deaths, with at least 20,000 in the UK.

Assembly Members agreed a motion calling on the Mayor to join them in supporting the campaign and to write to Government ministers urging them to explore funding for the memorial.

An HIV/AIDS memorial statue was erected in Brighton in 2009, designed by local sculptor Romany Mark Bruce. The memorial, the first in the UK, was entirely privately-funded.

Sian Berry, who proposed the motion, said: "London was at the heart of this country's AIDS epidemic which affected so many people, their loved ones and their friends. It's also where some of the most pioneering treatment and prevention methods are being carried out today.

"A dedicated memorial would pay tribute to the people we lost, as well as recognising those living with HIV now.

"It is wonderful that early detection and pioneering treatment allows people in the UK newly diagnosed with HIV to presume a normal life expectancy. However, London is a global city, and Londoners have many family and friends around the world living with HIV and AIDS who face stigma and don't have access to medication.

"By showing support for a national AIDS memorial here, the Assembly recognises London's links to all the communities affected, past and present, at home and across the globe."

Tom Copley, who seconded the motion, said: "This issue has local, national, and international importance.

"The capital is absolutely the right place for this memorial for both historical and contemporary reasons. It was at the heart of the epidemic at the time, is at the cutting edge of medical developments, and today around 40 per cent of those seeking treatment for HIV in the UK do so in London. I am delighted the Assembly has backed our call for this memorial, and look forward to seeing the campaign grow and succeed."

Farewell to the nation's favourite It Girl

BY GEOFF BAKER

KENSINGTON society is mourning the tragic loss of Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, the friend of the royals who was one of London's most popular party girls.

The 45-year-old socialite was found dead in her flat at Branham Gardens last week. She had been receiving treatment for a brain tumour.

Prince Charles, a close friend of the "It Girl's" family, led tributes and said he was "deeply saddened" by her death.

The former Sunday Times columnist and reality TV star was a regular on the London party scene in the 1990s and 2000s.

She made headlines for her social life, frequently appearing in the pages of society and celebrity magazines, before later appearing on I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here!

The gossip columns' favourite also battled a high-profile cocaine addiction, which she discussed publicly on a number of occasions.

She was diagnosed with a tumour last January after returning from a skiing trip and was also suffering from an autoimmune disease that caused acute anaemia, tiredness and joint pain.

She used her celebrity status to raise the profile of brain tumours, by speaking publicly about her ill-health.

Sarah Lindsell, chief executive of The Brain Tumour Charity, said: "Three months ago, Tara was brave enough to speak out about her brain tumour diagnosis and the impact it had on her life.

"Her honesty helped to raise awareness of the disease and it was welcomed by the many thousands of people in the UK and around the world who cope with the impact of a brain tumour.

"Tara helped to show why we must do all we can to defeat this devastating disease, which is the biggest cancer killer of children and young people in the UK."

Tara was found dead by her cleaner who builders heard crying before she set off an alarm.

The cleaner arrived at Tara's flat at around 1.30pm last Wednesday and was heard crying by builders renovating the apartment below. Minutes after the cleaner set off the alarm an ambulance arrived with several paramedics, followed by three police cars.

Tara was the daughter of an aristocratic farmer and grew up in Dummer Grange, a 1,200-acre estate near Basingstoke in Hampshire.

Publicly educated at Sherborne Girls School, she achieved 10 O-levels and three A-levels and briefly worked at Rothschild's bank before moving into other jobs in the fashion world. Her father Charles was a former Olympic skier who taught Prince Charles.

The family was skiing with the prince in the Alps in 1988 when they were hit by an avalanche that killed one member of their party, Major Hugh Lindsay, and left Palmer-Tomkinson's mother Patti with serious leg injuries.

In the 1990s Palmer-Tomkinson was photographed sharing a strictly platonic kiss with Prince Charles at Kloster's ski resort in Switzerland. The image made the tabloid front pages - and a new celebrity was born.

Tatler magazine swiftly christened her the It Girl and her relationships and exploits were pored over in society and celebrity magazines, leading to further offers inviting her to become a columnist for the Sunday Times and Mail on Sunday among others.

Royal historian Ingrid Seward told BBC News: "She did have it all, and perhaps that was part of her problem. She was a good-looking girl, she had a fabulous family, she was a brilliant skier, rider, and she was very artistic. She sang beautifully.

"I think there was just too much, life gave her too many choices, and she just didn't make the right ones. But she was a very generous, sweet person, I mean she really was a charming, charming girl."

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Duchess takes the lead in war on back-street dog breeding

THE Duchess of Cornwall is now at the forefront of a long-fought campaign to end one of the UK's great animal cruelties and to change the way that we buy our pets.

As the newly appointed royal patron of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home the Duchess will spearhead the drive to get tough on back-street breeders, the unregulated dog dealers who are thought to be responsible for selling nine out of every 10 puppies that the public unwittingly buys.

With the help of the Duchess, back-street breeders now face brooding behind bars.

The leading animal-welfare charity has welcomed the government's new tougher dog-breeding licensing rules, which promise to go some way towards clamping down on the indiscriminate dog breeders who have put profit before animal welfare.

Two years to the day since Battersea launched its End Backstreet Breeding campaign, shining a spotlight on the shocking practice of breeding dogs over and over again in squalid conditions, the government is now proposing to set in motion a tightening-up of the laws around selling pets and breeding dogs.

It is expected that the new rules will make it illegal to sell puppies younger than eight weeks old, which is something Battersea's campaign has been calling for.

Anyone breeding and selling three or more litters of puppies a year will also have to apply for a formal licence or face an unlimited fine or prison sentence.

Responding to the government announcement, Battersea's chief executive Claire Horton said: "Battersea knows only too well that backstreet and commercial puppy breeding is a huge issue that affects many thousands of animals and pet owners every year.

"We take in the battered, exhausted breeding bitches cast out on to the street once they're past their sell-by date. We care for the



The Duchess of Cambridge is the new royal patron of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home



under-socialised, sick or dying puppies, sold to unsuspecting owners who, faced with mounting vet bills or behaviour issues, often give them up.



Laila, a recent arrival at the home, is a striking example of the consequences of backstreet breeding



"We launched our End Backstreet Breeding campaign two years ago to urge the government to act, so we're pleased to see that our calls have not gone unheeded.

"It's high time we put a stop to the many undercover backstreet breeders and large-scale puppy farmers that profit from their cruel treatment of these animals.

"No puppy should start its life in cramped, squalid surroundings, before being torn away from their mother at a few weeks old. So many owners buying their new pet would be horrified to know that this was indeed the case.

"Toughening the current dog-breeding licensing rules and making it completely illegal to sell puppies younger than eight weeks old is a welcome first step and we now look forward to working with

the government to see these plans be put into practice and progress further."

The appointment of the Duchess as Battersea's new royal patron is expected to bring greater clout to the campaign as she is a committed supporter of the sanctuary, having taken in two strays as pets of her own.

The Duchess replaces the Queen as Battersea's lead patron and will be allowed to express views more trenchantly than custom permits the sovereign.

It is expected that she will be as forthright in her support for the work of Battersea as she has been in her backing for the campaign against domestic violence, another social evil which she spoke out against last year in a landmark speech when she described the si-

lence surrounding it as corrosive and warned of the fatal consequences of staying quiet.

The vocal backing of the Duchess is much needed to raise public awareness as the cruel practice of back-street breeding is far more widespread than the public imagines.

"Battersea estimates that around 88 per cent of puppies are born to unregulated dealers every year," said a spokesman for the dogs' home.

"Laila, a recent arrival at Battersea, is a striking example of the consequences of backstreet breeding.

"Found wandering in Tower Hamlets in January, it was obvious that the five-year-old had been used repeatedly for breeding.

"The young dog's mammary glands were so swollen, painful to the touch and covered in sores that the home's veterinary staff believe Laila has had multiple litters of puppies and been used as a breeding machine.

"Despite what she's been through, Laila is a sweet and friendly dog, who is now looking for a home of her own."

The requirement for online adverts to contain licensing information will make it harder to sell puppies illegally.

Battersea says it is also encouraged to note that local authorities will now be able to concentrate their efforts on problem breeders and sellers, and the charity sees this support for tougher enforcement as an essential next step.

"Backstreet breeding is a cruel and often illegal practice that results in thousands of mistreated and abandoned dogs each year. Anyone buying a dog from an online advert, a poster in a shop window, or from a friend of a friend can be affected," said the spokesman.

"Large-scale commercial puppy breeders, often known as puppy farms, churn out thousands of puppies each year.

"These animals have often been bred without appropriate veterinary care, food or socialisation, and are torn from their mothers before they are ready and sold to an unsuspecting public, often from a more attractive 'front premises'. The buying public may never see the puppy farm itself.

"Often seen by breeders as a quick, victimless money-making scheme, backstreet breeding commonly happens in people's own homes where an unneutered animal is allowed to breed over and over again for profit.

"Dogs are often kept in squalid, dirty, cramped conditions and isolated from other people and dogs apart from when they are bred from."

Each year Battersea cares for more than 8,000 dogs and cats, of which around 30 per cent arrive as unloved strays.

Geoff Baker



Queen set to be briefed on new ways to defeat cyber criminals

ALTHOUGH it is somewhat of a massive improbability that Her Majesty faces fears of computer hackers revealing any David Beckham-style rants in her emails, even the Queen is at risk of an attack by cyber thugs these days – a fact that will not be far from her mind when she opens this week London's new HQ in the war against the toerags, as the security services call them.

Her Majesty is to spend Valentine's Day at the National Cyber Security Centre in Victoria, being briefed about how to protect against the anonymous crooks who aim to steal and exploit all of the files stored on every computer, including those at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen has apparently already declared a keen interest in the threats in the ether. According to reports, two years ago she consulted one of the UK's most prominent cybersecurity experts, leading to talk that the Royal Family has sought its own protection from hackers and spies.

Her Majesty was said to have met Professor Sadie Creese – an expert in cybersecurity from the University of Oxford – over a palace luncheon and was reportedly given first-hand advice on how to tighten up security on email accounts and other safeguards.

Although Buckingham Palace does not comment on matters affecting any form of security, state secrets to which Her Majesty is privy would be of great interest to hackers keen to know everything from how much she has in which bank and how to try nick it, to what arrangements are being made for the impending visit of President Trump. But you don't mess with The Boss and Her Majesty is believed to want a thorough briefing at the new security centre about the many threats.

"A wide range of hostile actors use cyber to target the UK. They include foreign states, criminals, 'hacktivist' groups and terrorists," warns MI5.

"Hostile actors conducting cyber espionage can target the government, military, business and individuals. They use computer networks, for example, to steal large volumes of sensitive data undetected. This might include intellectual property, research and development projects, strategic data on a company's merger and acquisition plans, or any other information that the owner might want to protect."

Ciaran Martin, chief executive of the National Cyber Security Centre, spoke last year of the need to "defend the nation against the gravest, sophisticated threats we face" and "the risk of being compromised on an unprecedented scale".

He added: "In the UK we've faced and con-

tinued to face some very serious cyber attacks. Unlike some of our allies, there has not yet been a single stand-out incident of hostile foreign cyber attack that's resonated as a first-order national crisis with the public and media. But I expect – frankly I know – that we will face one, and we prepare on that basis. And behind the necessarily closed doors of our cyber defence operations centre, last year we detected twice as many national-security-level cyber incidents – 200 per month – than we did the year before.

"This is core national-security business for us; it always has been, it always will be. And these attackers are the people the cyber security industry and others like to call advanced persistent threats, or APTs. They threaten our public services, they threaten our infrastructure, they threaten our research, they threaten our innovation and much else.

"It's hard to do what they do and we invest heavily in our cyber defences and our cyber resilience to stop them. But then there's everything else. States, criminals and others attack in all sorts of ways, and not just in the sensational ways that push the buttons of editors and filmmakers.

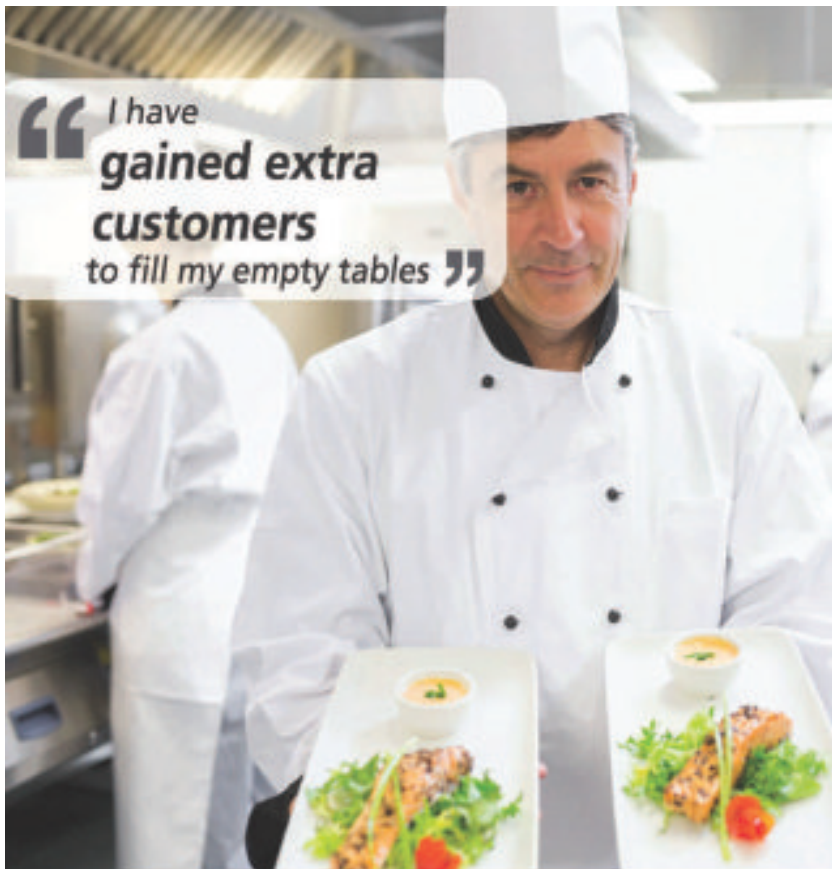
So let me make a point we believe to be fundamentally true, and therefore critical to our strategy. The great majority of cyber attacks are not terribly sophisticated. They can be defended against. And even if they get through, their impact can be contained.

"But far too many of these basic attacks are getting through. And they are doing far too much damage. They're damaging our major institutions.

"Sixty five per cent of all large UK companies reported a breach in the last year. And our local media in the UK is full of painful stories of small businesses, lovingly built up, struggling to survive and maintain the confidence of their customers after a ransomware attack.

"Now these attacks aren't carried out by APTs. My technical director, Dr Ian Levy, who's an expert of global standing with a fine turn of phrase, he likes to call them APTs, but he also likes to call them something else: Adequate, Pernicious Toerags. But whatever term we use for them, they're doing a lot of harm and in terms of defending against them we are not, yet, good enough."

But that was last year and since then the National Cyber Security Centre is now believed to have now developed the world's finest defence against attacks in the ether. Behind the scenes on Valentine's Day, Her Majesty will now learn the most hush-hush new ways to detect that not all that comes from Russia is with love.



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Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Ladyhawke

KOKO, Camden

Wednesday February 15

Singer-songwriter and electro-pop princess born and raised in New Zealand before making a splash in the UK in the late 2000s.

Enjoyed international success with self-titled debut, winning no fewer than six gongs at her home nation's annual music awards ceremony. Returned with *Wild Things* last year and hitting the road with *Isle* this spring.



Loyle Carner

O2 Empire, Shepherd's Bush

Friday February 17/

Saturday February 18

South London rapper making waves in the new year following release of stunning debut *Yesterday's Gone* inspired by childhood memories and the tragic loss of step-father Nik. The 22-year-old supported hip-hop hero Nas last year but is expected to pack out the Empire for two headline shows of his own. Expect smooth jazz samples and from-the-heart lyrics.



Sacred Paws

The Islington, Islington

Friday February 17

Delightful indie pop duo providing optimistic summer tunes six months ahead of schedule. Rachel Aggs and Eilidh Rodgers formed the band after playing together in forgotten Glasgow group Golden Grrrls. Have toured with the likes of Mogwai, Future Islands and Veronica Falls in the build-up to the release of their debut album *Strike A Match* last month.

FANCY your chances of "starring" at Glastonbury this year? Michael and Emily Eavis are looking for the new John Keats and Jamie Oliver to help make the festival a success.

Although the competition for unknown but talented bands has now closed, there are still opportunities to shine at Glasto, on-stage and, er, in the kitchen.

The Eavis family organisers are advertising for the rock stars of rhyme to step up and join Radiohead and Kris Kristofferson, the only two acts confirmed to date.

"We are opening our floodgates to a delicious deluge of poets from far and wide. Every year we take applications to perform on Glastonbury Festival's poetry stage, and every year we are awestruck by the hundreds of amazing wordsmiths out there," said a festival spokesman.

"Last year we hosted an abundance of talent from international stars Buddy Wakefield and Tanya Evanson, to home-grown greats John Hegley and Murray Lachlan Young. If you'd like to walk in their footsteps, then this is your chance.

"We're looking for applications from experienced writers and performers, with something quite excellent to offer the audience of the world's biggest greenfield arts festival."

Poets with 'pow!' have until March 3rd to get an application in via the Glastonbury website, just a few days after the February 28 deadline for another opportunity to join the team, working in the catering tent.

"Experience in cooking for large numbers is essential," said the Glasto spokesman, although it is understood that this refers to cooking for the star bands' large entourages rather than for the entire 150,000 crowd.



Odds on favourites Guns N'Roses

GLASTO GUESSING

Who's in and who's out in 2017 asks Geoff Baker

Applicants are required to have "some knowledge" of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free dishes but organisers warn that this is not a free meal ticket to getting at the front of the stage.

"This is hard work, rather than just an easy way into the festival. The role will involve assisting the catering manager and chefs by performing duties such as food preparation and front of house service. Relevant experience will be essential and you must be aged 18 years or over," runs the proviso.

Meanwhile, speculation is soaring over which stars will making the chopper flights to Worthy Farm this year, with Guns N'Roses leading the field with odds of 4/6.

Other favourites to appear include Kasabian, The Stone Roses and The Foo Fighters, the latter being much-tipped following their 2015 cancellation forced by Dave Grohl injuring his leg after falling from a stage in Sweden.

Also much-fancied to appear is Ed Sheeran.

"He's been approached to play according to early reports and betting has now been suspended on his chances as being named headliner number two. With a European tour ending just in time for the festival as well, this one looks like it could be nailed on," reports NME's man in the festival know, Thomas Smith.

Great pop divas Rihanna, Diana Ross and Lady Gaga are in the run-



Gaga pushing for a spot as Lady Glagla?

ning too, with La Ross said to be pencilled for the Legends slot and, Smith claims, the star of the Super Bowl vying for a billing as Lady Glagla.

"Her new album and videos appear to show Gaga pitching herself for the slot, judging by the festival-esque setting. Not only that, but Gaga's recent Dive Bar tour seem to be showcasing her love for a more traditional gig set up - ideal for a Pyramid slot," forecasts Smith.

"It's been reported that Gaga has also been 'approached' to play, though whether that's a headline slot though is yet to be seen."

The NME tipster is also putting Robbie Williams in the bag of favourites and the one-time Take That star has made it clear that he would jump at the chance of returning to the Somerset farm.

"If they ask me I would do it. I would love to do Glastonbury again. I would like my moment on the Pyramid Stage in front of a record-breaking amount of people please," said Robbie at a recent press conference to announce dates for his European tour which, pundits have noted, leaves him in the UK on Glasto weekend with the Saturday and Sunday free.



Possible appearances at Glastonbury this year? Ed Sheeran is much fancied, Diana Ross may take up the Legends slot and Robbie Williams has kept the weekend free

Capital nights

FOR almost 20 years Elbow were the great British underdogs – the perennial no-hopers swimming determinedly against the tide but always out of shape with the mainstream mould.

Without a hit to their name and question marks over whether they would even carry on pursuing the dream, the Bury-bred five-piece were incontrovertible proof that nice guys do indeed finish last.

All that changed, however, with the release of – and worldwide acclaim for – the band's breakthrough album *The Seldom Seen Kid* in 2008.

A record of such timeless majesty, it was bound to become a sure fire hit no matter what the rules of the zeitgeist prescribed.

Bookended by the soaring *Starlings* and *One Day Like This* – a track that would go on to be name-dropped by dozens of *Desert Island Discs* – the album was a springboard. In an instant, Elbow were propelled from obscurity to stardom.

Now almost 10 years on – and one drummer down – the band are firmly entrenched in a new chapter in their career.

Little Fictions, their latest album, released earlier this month, is Elbow's third since *The Seldom Seen Kid* – and it paints a picture of a band rediscovering its delicate touch after the bluster of popular success.

Since that glorious breakthrough, Elbow, led by the friendly giant singer-songwriter Guy Garvey, have pandered only to their own interests as musicians.

The two follow-up records to date have yielded mixed results, but *Little Fictions* is a return to form.

Subtler and stripped back compared to its predecessors, Garvey and co sculpt a collection of fragile ballads littered with the occa-



Elbow, pictured with drummer Richard Jupp (second from right) who left the band last year

sional soaring chorus.

A triumphant trio of shows at the Hammersmith Apollo arrive hot on the heels of the album's release in March – a venue well-suited to Elbow's stadium-sized sound and a far cry from the backstreet bars of the band's early days.

It will also be a rebirth of sorts as Elbow

begin life without drummer and founding member Richard Jupp and welcome back Garvey after he took a break to record his debut solo album, *Courting The Squall*, in 2015.

"As lovely as it is being the boss, you have no one to bounce ideas off that has a

vested interest in your idea being the right one," says Garvey.

"When I'm sat in a room with Elbow, everything's talked about. We could co-produce a cup of tea."

Recently married to actress Rachael Stirling, Garvey has had no time to enjoy the honeymoon period with his new wife.

Instead he polished off his solo tour and became immediately entrenched in curating London's Meltdown Festival on the Southbank, with writing well under way for *Little Fictions* at that stage.

Despite the departure of Jupp, Elbow remains a tight-knit unit with brothers Mark (guitar) and Craig Potter (piano, keys) at the centre.

Bass player Pete Turner is the remaining member of the band, which has until now been unchanged since its formation in the early 1990s.

Often talked about as the nice guys of rock'n'roll, Elbow are now every bit the household name.

As much a part of our national culture as Mick and Keith – their triumphant musical identity was used as the theme for the BBC's coverage of the London Olympics in 2012 – the final four are entering the golden years of their already illustrious careers.

The forthcoming *Apollo* shows will be a chance to catch one of our best-loved bands as they set out on a new adventure together.

Elbow perform at the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith on March 4, 5 and 6. The new album *Little Fictions* is out now.

Jack Dixon
previews
ELBOW
at Hammersmith
Apollo

Danny Boy stepping out in front of a live audience

HE has been the resident motormouth of Saturday morning radio for almost 30 years – but now Danny Baker is returning to his first love.

The proud south Londoner, who was raised in Bermondsey by his docker father 'Spud' and long-suffering mother Bet, has always been a favourite on the airwaves.

But his clown-around capers and razor-sharp wit are set to find a new home on the stage this month as he brings to life some of his tallest tales for a live audience.

Standing in the spotlight, Danny says, is the perfect platform for his chatterbox-style quips. Although when pushed he admits he's never actually given it a go before!

Still, armed with a lifetime's collection of celebrity run-ins, anecdotes and observations, what could possibly go wrong?

"To travel from town to town addressing a fabulous gathering of like-minded chums each night seems to me exactly what Shakespeare would have done, had not the hefty rent at The Globe kept him in London," he says of his first ever tour, which comes to the Shepherd's Bush Empire next month.

"I own very few theatres any more," he quips. "So I am now totally free to charge about here and there wowing the folks with my anecdotal back catalogue, games involving sausages and impressive six-octave range."

Baker's change of tune comes off the back of his well-received BBC comedy drama series, *Cradle To Grave*, based on his own teenage years growing up in 1970s London.

The second series is due to air this year and Baker is rumoured to be hard at work writing the third.

But in amongst the scrunching up of scripts and tearing out of hair, the 59-year-old has found time to pen enough content for a 35-date tour.

Although Baker concedes he's not sure precisely what will come out of his mouth when the lights go down.

"No two nights of this extravaganza will be the same," he promises, before quickly adding: "This is less of a boast than an admission that a) I am hopeless at learning scripts, and b) I still have no idea what I am going to include."

What Baker can guarantee is a "flow of the soul", leaning on nuggets and titbits from his colourful career in television, radio and journalism.

Because over the course of a full 40 years in the showbiz racket, the Deptford-born broadcaster has conquered all corners of the entertainment arena – stand-up aside, of course.

Giddy with excitement about the tour, which kicked off in Leeds at the start of the month, Baker pledges to "go off like a cacophonous catherine wheel of chat" complete with hundreds of tales – including some pinched from the illustrious family photo album made famous on *Cradle To Grave*.

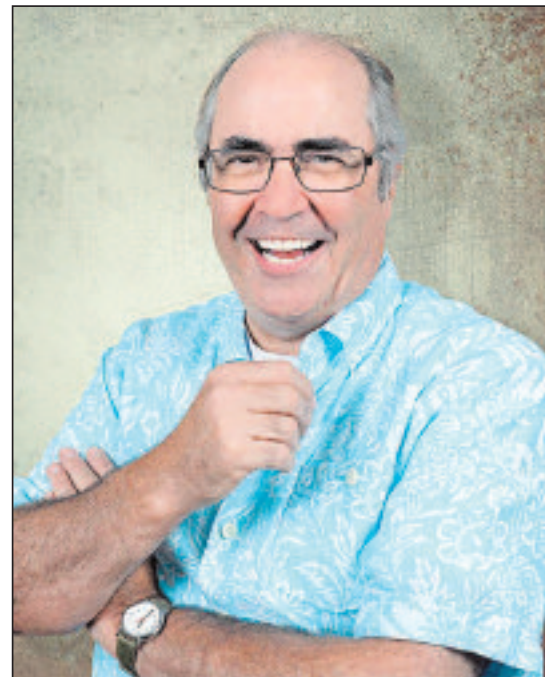
"A night at the theatre can either be deep dish or high kicking," he explains. "What I promise to haul before you is very much in the latter category. Content-wise I will make Springsteen and Dodd look like short-changing slackers. I can't wait."

Alongside the latest journey into the unknown, Baker is still presenting his award-winning Saturday morning show on BBC Radio 5 Live while flogging copies of his best-selling autobiography.

But for all his media success, Danny Boy says he is chuffed to be back where he belongs.

"This is the sort of radio I've always wanted to do – i.e. radio without radio, just me and you ... In fact, if you don't show up I'm going to do it in your local theatre anyway. So you may as well come. Why should the ushers have all the fun?"

Danny Baker brings *Cradle To The Stage* to the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire on March 31 and April 1.



Danny Baker - *Cradle to the Stage*

Talk of the town



Helen George

Love in Idleness

DIRECTOR Trevor Nunn has gathered an all-star cast for his return to the Menier Chocolate Factory.

Principal casting for their major new revival of Terence Rattigan's *Love in Idleness* includes Eve Best, Edward Bluemel, Helen George and Anthony Head.

Eve Best, who plays Olivia Brown, is perhaps best known for television work, which has included roles in *Lucky Man*, *Nurse Jackie* and *Prime Suspect*.

Edward Bluemel, playing Michael Brown, is currently featuring as Toby Hamilton in *The Halcyon* on ITV.

Call the Midwife's Helen George plays Diana Fletcher and Anthony Head, who has enjoyed a hugely successful career both on stage and screen is Sir John Fletcher.

Returning from Canada after a four-year absence during the war, eighteen-year-old Michael is full of youthful ideology and leftist leanings. But he is shocked to find his widowed mother Olivia is now the mistress of cabinet minister Sir John Fletcher, enjoying a comfortable society life. When Michael and John clash, sparks fly and relationships are tested as everyone learns some difficult lessons in love.

Love in Idleness opens at the Menier Chocolate factory on March 20 running until April 29.

For further information, you can visit the website www.menierchocolatefactory.com



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Growing up disgracefully

WEST End audiences are to be treated to an uplifting and moving musical adaptation of Alan Warner's *The Sopranos* later this year, when the critically acclaimed *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour* is brought to the stage at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Following sell-out run last summer at the National Theatre, Vicky Featherstone's smash-hit production of Lee Hall's musical adaptation reunites original cast members and will open in May.

It follows the story of six Catholic schoolgirls from Oban, let loose in Edinburgh for the day. Funny, raucous and heartbreaking, *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour* is adapted from Warner's brilliant novel about six young friends on the cusp of change.

Featuring, amongst others, the songs of ELO, the show is pitched as a glorious anthem to friendship, youth and growing up disgracefully.

Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour will run at the Duke of York's Theatre from May 9 to September 2 - www.ourladiesthemusical.co.uk

DARLING of the West End, Frances Ruffelle is having a right royal bash later this month when she leads the cast of Michael John LaChiusa's *The Wild Party*, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The show will be the inaugural production at The Other Palace, formerly the St James Theatre, when it reopens as the newest addition to The Really Useful Theatres Group.

In its first major London production, *The Wild Party* will be directed and choreographed by Drew McOnie and star the Tony award winning actress Frances Ruffelle, who took some time out of rehearsals to tell me about the show.

She said: "It's about a wild party, wilder than any I have been to and I have been to a few!"

Despite being kicked out of her family's famed theatre school (Frances' mother is the impresario Sylvia Young) Ruffelle has forged a hugely successful career in show business.

She is perhaps best known for her portrayal of the waif Epoinette in *Les Misérables*, a role which earned her a Tony award for the Broadway production, but the versatile performer has also represented the UK in the Eurovision song

contest as well as garnering acclaim as a recording artist.

Ruffelle took some time away from her performance vocation to have three children-one of whom is the pop sensation Eliza Doolittle and has since built up a huge following in the US, where her very special solo shows have been met with enormous approbation.

Frances says she is pleased to back as part of a company: "I love doing my solo shows and choosing how and what I do but it's quite lonely and all the pressure is on you. Being part of a company is like gaining a new family. And certainly so far, this rehearsal period has been full of excitement and more of a buzz than I have experienced in a long while."

Her character Queenie, is a blonde Vaudeville showgirl who parties herself to rock bottom and Frances explains: "Queenie and Burrs throw a debauched party in the Lower East Side for their rather unsavoury friends, supplying bathtub gin in a time when drinking was illegal. It soon turns into a dark, crazy and filthy party."

"She is insecure, wishes she was a star, and only feels loved when she is made love to; she substitutes her disappointment in life with alcohol and sex. She has to face up to what life has given her and find happiness in the life she has."

The Wild Party began life as a narrative poem by New York journalist and screenwriter, Joseph Moncure March.

LaChiusa's musical version ran for just 68 performances on Broadway in 2000, but gained a cult following and, after the writer heard Ruffelle perform a song from the show in one of her New York solo engagements, he offered her the UK rights.

"The music and lyrics are what I fell in love with 10 years ago when I first heard the original cd. It's like a jazz opera. It is totally mind blowing but also some of the most challenging music I have ever had to learn."

Frances got producer Paul Taylor-Mills involved, who then invited rising star Drew McOnie to direct the piece.

After Andrew Lloyd Webber bought the St James Theatre and put Taylor-Mills in charge, the trio realised they had found the perfect place for the party to start.

Ruffelle is full of praise for the celebrated choreographer and director: "He [McOnie] is a breath of fresh air in rehearsal. I have never worked with a director who bounds around the room all the time with so much energy and his creativity is endless. I am blessed to have this experience."

Frances is joined by an all-star cast, which includes John Owen-Jones and Donna McKechnie, a fellow Tony Award winner who is best known for playing Cassie in *Chorus Line*.

"My jaw drops every time I see a new scene or song. They really are the cream of the West End. I am so lucky to be part of this group."

With such huge competition to attract audiences in London, I asked Frances what she thinks *The Wild Party* offers to those who are looking for an evening out at the theatre.

"It is unlike anything on in London at the moment and judging from the excitement in rehearsal, you may just have a ridiculously fun night."

The Wild Party runs at The Other Palace until Saturday April 1. Visit the website www.theotherpalace.co.uk

The Wild Party

Frances Ruffelle and John Owen Jones in *The Wild Party*



Hamilton the Musical starts with safe hands

THE first round of casting has been announced for the hugely anticipated West End run of the smash hit musical *Hamilton*.



Rachel Ann Go

Regular visitors to London's theatre-land will recognise many of the names who will take to the stage at the Victoria Palace Theatre later this year.

Rather than relying on celebrities to bring in the crowds the producers, so far, are trusting a troop of well honed stage stars to deliver the musical, which has taken the world by storm.

Rachel John - who recently wowed audiences alongside Beverley Knight in the *Bodyguard* at the Dominion Theatre - is getting her chance to grab the headlines as Angelica Schuyler, while Filipino superstar Rachel Ann Go will play her sister and *Hamilton*'s wife Eliza.

Rachel Ann Go is best known for her recent portrayal of Fantine in the West End production of *Les Misérables* and Gigi in *Miss Saigon*, a role

that she is about to reprise on Broadway.

They will be joined by Giles Terera Obioma Ugoala Christine Allado Jason Pennycooke, Cleve September and newcomer Tarinn Callender.

The producers are yet to reveal who is to play the two lead roles of Alexander Hamilton and King George, but fans are hoping the top job will be taken by the show's writer, Lin Manuel Miranda, even if just for a limited season.

Hamilton is about the life of an American founding father and inspired by the 2004 biography *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow.

The show will open at the newly refurbished Victoria Palace Theatre in the autumn - www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk



Rachel John

Talk of the town

Review Fantastic Mr Fox
Lyric Hammersmith
★★★★

FOLLOWING the celebrations for what would have been Roald Dahl's 100th birthday last year, theatres became awash with adaptations of the nation's favourite alternative fairy tales and, after a successful Christmas run at the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton, Fantastic Mr Fox has taken the leap to the London stage with ease, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

By infusing songs into the much loved story, the show joins hugely successful predecessors Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (soon to open on Broadway) and the RSC's multi award winning Matilda.

Sam Holcroft's other clever enrichment is the addition of adult humour into the otherwise fairly tame story of a family of wildlife fighting for survival against some reprehensible farmers.

The original fable lacks the darkness of some of Dahl's other work, making it extremely family friendly, but with the potential of becoming a bit staid for the adults.

Director, Maria Aberg has ensured that, as with any good family show, there is something for all ages and the energetic cast propels the simple story along at breakneck speed in order to keep the attention of even the most skittish young theatregoers.

With some naughty nuances provided by a randy and raucous rabbit, grown-ups can also enjoy the show without the, slightly saccharin, morality tale growing too tiresome.

Greg Barnett leads the charge as an Elvis like Mr Fox - full of macho bluster - and is joined by an octet of forest creatures, including Sandy Foster, who is a real scene-stealer as the hyperactive bunny, delivering double entendres with perfectly pitched spritely sauciness.

There is also some seamless doubling up with Richard Atwill's haunting looks and villainous voice, giving the perfect amount of pantomime wickedness to both Rat and the main antagonist Frank Bean, while the disastrous duo of Boggis and Bunce are gruesome, yet somehow appealing, thanks to hilarious portrayals from Gruffudd Glyn and Raphael Bushay.

Tom Scutt's fantastical set design gives the show a playroom like appearance and, with contemporary costumes, the 47-year-old story feels bang up to date.

Musically there are some real winners too, although the balance of the band and vocalists could do with improvement, so audiences can appreciate the clever and amusing lyrics, without having to strain their ears.

In these tumultuous times we all need to escape to a world in which good triumphs over evil and with the enduring appeal of Roald Dahl's work, this fabulous family treat is destined to become a hit.

Fantastic Mr Fox continues at the Lyric Hammersmith until February 19 - lyric.co.uk

Review:
Fantastic
Mr Fox
- a real
family
show



Greg Barnett as Mr Fox as Richard Atwill as Rat

Photo by Manuel Harlan

A moving story about real people

GARY Barlow's first West End musical, The Girls opens next week, but who has the master songwriter trusted to take on the pivotal leading roles?

Well, the answer is, two of the most highly acclaimed musical theatre performers of their generation in the shape of Claire Moore and Joanna Riding, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Based on the real life story of The Calendar Girls, the new musical has been in development for five years and follows a group of Yorkshire women who, after tragedy strikes, take the decision to raise money for charity by posing nude for a WI calendar.

The story of the women is well known to British audiences after the film, which starred Helen Mirren and Julie Walters and the subsequent stage adaptation, but writer Tim Firth always thought the he could make it into a great musical. After getting his childhood friend and Take That star Gary Barlow involved, the project will come to fruition at the Phoenix Theatre later this month.

Leading ladies Joanna Riding and Claire Moore have been there from the beginning, contributing from the first workshop, to the first performance in a village hall in Yorkshire and now bringing the show to London audiences.

Joanna said: "To be involved right from the workshops and to see Tim and Gary craft it into something very different and watch them sculpt and change it has been a real privilege."

The stage stalwarts are extremely humble about their prominence, a quality which fits perfectly with the roles are they portraying in The Girls.

Riding plays Annie, based on Angela Knowles, whose husband John was diagnosed with leukemia, while Moore plays Chris, based on Trish Stewart, the driving force behind the idea to make the original calendar.

West End favourites including Michelle Dotrice, Debbie Chazen, Claire Machin and James Gaddas join them and real Calendar Girls have been involved in the process from the start.

Claire said: "In the first workshop, our producer, David Pugh introduced us to the ladies and



Claire Moore and Joanna Riding

we got to know them really well.

"Hearing the story from their mouths really made us feel like we were onto something special. "Everyone has experienced loss at some time, everybody has those moments. Tim has portrayed it so beautifully with Gary's music as well and the ladies believe this is the truest portrayal of their relationship. It's a real privilege, it really is."

Joanna adds: "I was invited to Angela's house and I picked her brains about the real John and about her family and she was so generous with that."

"I think there has been a sort of alchemy between Tim and Gary," Joanna said.

"There's such an honesty to the way the lyrics have been written. It's how real people talk about their grief, not with great platitudes or sweeping statements and I think it's so devastatingly moving because of that. It's honest and true and people relate to that."

To date, The Calendar Girls have raised nearly five million pounds for the Bloodwise charity, with much of the money going to research cures and treatments.

When The Girls was first performed last year, the cast went out after each performance and collected over £75,000 from audience donations. The musical will continue to raise money for the cause, with a percentage of the profits going straight to the charity

The Girls opens at the Phoenix Theatre on the February 21 - www.thegirlsmusical.com

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Wine&dine

Chrysanthemum leaves and daisies among top veg

GREENGROVERS at New Covent Garden Market have published their predictions for the hottest vegetable trends for 2017.

This year, foodies will be eating raw turmeric root, Tokyo turnips and daisies. Yum.

As parents across the capital doubtless cannot wait to try to get their kids to eat up the new greens, market traders forecast that the most fashionable plates will also be featuring chrysanthemum leaves and flowers from the Andes.

A spokesman for the traders said the annual trends audit "provides a sneak peak at what top restaurants like Le Gavroche, The Dorchester, The Four Seasons and The Wolseley will be serving up this year". The top tips include:

● **Colourful produce.** "With purple firmly set out as the colour du jour for 2017, traders have reported an uplift in sales of everything from purple carrots to lavender-hued Brussels sprouts and artichokes. We'll be seeing a veritable rainbow on our plates this year as heritage carrots in yellows, oranges and purples remain popular too."

● **Microherbs and edible flowers.** "Microherbs, seedlings picked between six and 21 days old, are ideal for adding delicate and subtle flavour to soups, salads and more. Already widely used in top eating establishments, new varieties such as butterfly sorrel and bronze fennel are finding their way on to the city's most stylish plates adding wonderful colours and intricate taste layers. Meanwhile, edible flowers have stretched beyond the realms of a classic pansy or nasturtium and we are seeing chefs and mixologists celebrating seasonality with cucumber flowers, dill crowns and daisies."

● **Root for roots.** "The traders of New Covent Garden Market unanimously voted healthy

eating as the No 1 trend which has contributed to increased sales in their businesses, with superfoods such as raw roots of turmeric and both new and old varieties of kale gaining popularity everywhere from fine dining establishments to juice bars. Chefs are also increasingly responding to customers looking to avoid allergens. Meanwhile, kale and avocado fans need not fear as these favourites of the raw food movement continuing their ascendancy as two of the most popular and in-vogue green vegs of the moment."

● **British veg.** "Three themes that strongly shone through from the survey were the growing popularity of British produce, heritage varieties and hyper-localisation with a demand for not just British but also regional and locally sourced produce too. Just as meat provenance is very important to customers, chefs want to visit and credit the farms working hard to grow their vegetables, especially if they can be reached on the London Tube."

● **Classics with a twist.** "In 2017, we'll see lots of old favourites with a new and interesting twist to them such as white asparagus, Romanesco broccoli, sprouting cauliflower, flower sprouts, Brussel tops, kalettes and raw salad varieties of young kale. New varieties are showing that brassicas are anything but dull and the consumer palette appears to have developed a new appreciation of the unique bitter taste that is characteristic of this family of vegetables."

● **New veg on the block.** "Some exciting and wildly different varieties are newly appearing in the crates of New Covent Garden's market traders. One such produce is nasturtium root which heralds from the Andes mountains in South America and has a beautiful yellow colour to it. Nasturtium root has a creamy, earthy flavour with natural mustard oil contributing a peppery tone. Like

other roots, they can be boiled, roasted or mashed, while braising with as little water as possible helps to retain their shape and creamy texture. Tokyo turnips are also turning heads with their unique taste that is somewhere between a radish and a turnip. Along with Japanese herbs, this variety is also a great example of a produce that is not native to the UK but is now being grown from seed here, in response to the demand for more locally grown produce."

● **Eat up your Bolivians.** "South American cooking from Mexico, Peru and Bolivia features herbs such as the pungent, oregano-like epazote, and papaya, a herb similar to coriander. Tomatillos are also being planted in UK glasshouses, alongside more familiar varieties. Chrysanthemum leaves, the classic chop suey green, already grow well in the UK and we're seeing more Japanese and Chinese specialities being grown from seed, such as amaranth and shiso leaves. Other ethnic produce being grown in UK fields include Caribbean turnip tops, also known as callaloo or collar greens."

● **Japanese roots.** "All manner of roots and tubers are proving a big hit with chefs at the moment, including roots of chervil, nasturtium and parsley, all of which offer rich, less fibrous flavour. Crunchy crosnes, or Japanese artichokes, are an unusual root, fiendishly difficult to harvest and prepare, which accounts for their rarity and expense."

● **Sustainability.** "Sustainability has been noted as a key trend by many of the market's traders. Increasingly there is a demand for not just the exceptional produce they supply which is the freshest of the fresh but also out-graded or surplus vegetables which companies will find uses for to make jams, chutney and much more to ensure they are building sustainability into their business models."

Geoff Baker

MARK HIX MBE'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Poached Yorkshire rhubarb with Kingston black zabaglione

Serves 4



WE struggle with the British fruit situation at this time of year – the options seem somewhat exhausted, meaning we often have to look further afield for fruity dessert inspiration.

So it's a bit of a relief when the first British forced rhubarb appears in January: it's one more ingredient to slot into the pudding menu.

For the rhubarb

300g-400g rhubarb, trimmed and washed
120g caster sugar

For the zabaglione

4 medium egg yolks
5tbsp caster sugar
A third of a vanilla pod, split and the seeds scraped out
120ml Kingston Black apple aperitif

To make the zabaglione, put the egg yolks, sugar and vanilla seeds in a round-bottomed steel or Pyrex bowl (not aluminum, or it may go grey).

Beat well with a whisk for 2-3 minutes, then beat in the Kingston Black.

Hold the bowl with a cloth and fit it over a pan containing 3-4cm of simmering water.

Whisk continuously for a few minutes until the mixture is thick and frothy.

For the rhubarb, preheat the oven to 200C/gas mark 6.

Cut the rhubarb roughly into 1cm pieces. Place in a baking tray or oven-proof dish and scatter over the caster sugar.

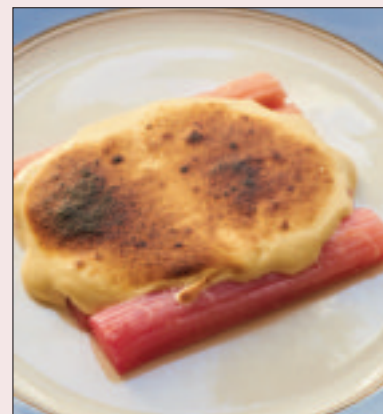
Cover with foil and cook in the oven for about 30 minutes until the rhubarb is tender.

Carefully pour off the cooking juices from the rhubarb into a saucepan.

Bring to the boil and let bubble until reduced by about half and thickened.

Pour back over the rhubarb and leave to cool.

To serve, put the rhubarb in bowls or plates and pour over the warm zabaglione, if you wish glaze under a pre-heated grill, or use a blow torch if you're feeling a bit cheffy.



Exquisite cuisine and opulent surroundings

JUST a short walk from Waterloo Station and tucked beneath the railway arches hides one of London's best-kept culinary secrets, writes Nicky Sweetland.

I stepped across the threshold of Royal China's Thai Silk restaurant on a cold and drizzly January lunchtime and was immediately taken with the warming and friendly ambience which greeted me.

The attractive interior boasts a perfect blend of the traditional and the contemporary, with lavish wall hangings alongside modern art installations creating an opulent display.

Ordinarily I stay away from Thai cuisine, as my shellfish allergy inhibits my choice. But the extensive menu at Thai Silk enabled me to enjoy a three-course feast, chosen by the passionate waiting staff.

First I was served with a plate filled to the brim with traditional treats, including spring rolls and chicken satay.



The mouth-watering aroma hit me first and the glorious presentation made for an artistic start to the meal.

I washed it down with a mocktail – a fresh, fruity and sweet alternative to an alcoholic beverage made with strawberry, passion fruit and lime for a sharp but refreshing libation.

For my main course I was treated to a

beautifully tender lamb shank in a medium curry sauce served with vanilla rice and crunchy vegetables to add a flash of colour to my plate.

It was the perfect fulsome dish for a cold winter's day and I was left with little room for my dessert.

But not to be beaten I managed to find a little pocket for the antithesis to the obligatory January diet in the shape of a banana fritter. Served with coconut ice cream, the sweet extravagance was a fabulous way to finish off my cheat day and I ventured into the afternoon with a blissful, if not slightly guilty, feeling.

The restaurant was surprisingly full considering it was a Wednesday lunchtime. But after sampling the exquisite cuisine, I'm not surprised patrons are more than happy to return over and over again.

Thai Silk, at 94-95 Isabella Street, is open daily. For more information, visit thai-silk.co.uk/index.html.

Described by the *New York Times* as "Broadway's best kept secret", Cy Coleman and Ira Gasman's *The Life* will get its long awaited London debut next month at Southwark Playhouse.

Directed by the show's original Broadway director, Michael Blakemore, the musical will boast a stellar cast including T'Shan Williams, David Albury Sharon D. Clarke.

A thrilling exposé of the darker side of 1980's New York, *The Life* is a defiant and heartfelt musical about Times Square before it was cleaned up. A world of pimps and prostitutes, innocents and opportunists, it's a gutsy and gritty joyride filled with both pathos and fun.

Queen (T'Shan Williams), a young girl from Savannah, and Fleetwood (David Albury), a Vietnam vet with a drug habit, are trying to make it in a merciless New York. Queen is forced into part-time prostitution and *The Life* describes how these two lovers move through this dark world until Queen is helped by her one true friend, an older more experienced hooker, Sonja (Sharon D. Clarke), to make her escape.

On this journey, we meet Memphis (Cornell S. John), the all-powerful king pimp, the girls he controls, Jojo (John Addison), the hustler, who makes it all happen,



The cast of *The Life*

and the fresh-faced Mary (Joanna Woodward), straight off the bus from small town Minnesota, only too eager to embrace *The Life*.

The original critically acclaimed Broadway production of *The Life*, opened on 26 April 1997 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. It received 12 Tony Award nominations, winning Best Featured Actress and Actor in a Musical for cast members Lillias White and Chuck Cooper. Sharon and Cornell will be assuming these roles in the UK production. The *Life* was also nominated for nine Drama Desk Awards, winning three, including Best Musical.

Full casting of the hit Broadway musical, *The Life* includes John Addison (*Jojo*), David Albury

(*Fleetwood*), Jalisa Andrews (*Chichi*), Matthew Caputo (*Oddjob*), Lawrence Carmichael (*Snickers*), Omari Douglas (*Slick*), Aisha Jawando (*Carmen*), Thomas-Lee Kidd (*Bobby*), Charlotte Reavey (*April*), Jo Servi (*Lacy*), Lucinda Shaw (*Tracy*), Johnathan Tweedie (*Theodore*), T'Shan Williams (*Queen*) and Joanna Woodward (*Mary*). They join the previously announced musical theatre stars Sharon D. Clarke (*Sonja*), who was recently appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2017 Queen's New Year Honours for services to drama, and Cornell S. John (*Memphis*).

The Life will run at Southwark Playhouse from 25th March until 29th April. Visit www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk for more details

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Property

Lots of us are living in smaller homes, especially in towns and cities, so here are some ideas for making them work better

1. In small bedrooms, storage is all-important. Fitted wardrobes provide floor-to-ceiling storage and are most useful if built in what might otherwise be wasted space, such as the alcoves next to a chimney breast. Fitted wardrobes aren't expensive if you make them out of MDF (or get a carpenter to), and can be customised for your storage needs. A bed with built-in storage may also be a good investment.

2. To make a small bathroom work well, think about re-jigging the layout - would there be more space with a corner toilet, shower cubicle or basin, for example? Also consider the depth of the toilet - some are a lot shorter than others, giving you more useable floor space. If you don't use the bath, could you save space by replacing it with a shower cubicle? This may put off some buyers when you come to sell, but may be worth it if it improves the bathroom for you. If you want to keep the bath, there may be a better bath for the room, such as a shorter, narrower or tapered one.

3. Fitting everything in a small kitchen can be a challenge. Consider

moving the washing machine to the bathroom or under-stairs cupboard, for example, and fitting smaller appliances, such as a two-burner hob. Clever kitchen designs make more of limited space - try a pullout worktop and wall-hung table that folds down. Tall wall units, if the ceiling's high enough, give you more storage by using otherwise wasted space.

4. A small boiler will free up space. Dated properties often have a big, floor-standing boiler with a hot-water cylinder, plus tanks in the loft. In smaller properties, this takes up valuable space and is unnecessary because a combi boiler (no cylinder or tank needed) will usually suffice (ask a heating engineer if in doubt), some combis are especially compact.

5. In some rooms, it's hard to find wall space for a radiator without putting furniture in front of it, which is pointless. Solve the problem with slimline vertical radiators - they're ideal when wall space is limited and are handy for drying big things like sheets. Most vertical radiators are only one or two columns deep, which limits the heat output. As well as being a practical solution for small rooms, these radiators are the perfect combination of period elegance and contemporary style, and a nice feature in their own right.



To make a small bathroom work well, think about re-jigging the layout

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Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A4 GLA ROAD (CROMWELL ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable junction improvement works to take place on A4 Cromwell Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from: Stopping on Cromwell Road between its junctions with Collingham Road and Ashburn Gardens; Entering or exiting Cromwell Road from Ashburn Gardens, Courtfield Gardens, Grenville Place and Ashburn Place; The Order will be effective at certain times from 08:00 AM on the 25th February 2017 until 10:00 PM on 21st May 2017 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibitions will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the traffic prohibitions are in force alternative routes will be indicated by traffic signs via: **(For access from Cromwell Road)** Knaresborough Place, Courtfield Gardens, Courtfield Road to normal route of Travel; **(For access to Cromwell Road)** Courtfield Road, Courtfield Gardens and Collingham Road to normal route of travel

Dated this 14th day of February 2017

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON

AYERILL ALISON KELLY (otherwise Avril Alison Kelly) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 8, 34 Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, London W8 7QF who died on 15/08/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 22/04/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Farrer & Co LLP, 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LH.
Ref: DED/EEL/84240.1

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

Innovative Aged Care Limited, Chelsea Court Place, 234A Kings Road, London SW3 5UA.

I hereby give notice that the above named applicant has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the following licensable activities under the Licensing Act (2003)

Supply of Alcohol

Monday to Sunday 00:00hrs to 23:59 hrs

Late Night Refreshment

Monday to Sunday 23:00 hrs to 05:00 hrs

The licensing Register can be inspected at any time by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx.

During office hours arrangements may be made for the application or register to be viewed Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW.

Any representation relating to this application must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority by 02/03/2017

Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and a person may be liable for a fine on summary convictions of up to £5,000.

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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that: 1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that all descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and 2. The copy supplied with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.

2. Classified Advertisements offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed "Trade Advertisements", and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to those requirements and not an alternative.

3. To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisements must insert a clear statement that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as "trade", "dealer", "agent", "wholesaler", "OT" etc. in the advertisement.

4. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or

(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to fax numbers to the Advertiser; 4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where advantage of advertisement is taken by the advertiser, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centime. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or printer changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified listings and semi-displays) are subject to and include a 6.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertiser to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer. (1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 10% above the current Bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1994.

14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement - irrespective of the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers' control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.

17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for publishers or advertisers in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.

18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are changed as part of the advertisement, i.e. box No., content address. There is no charge for forwarding replies. Box numbers alone are not available for use in "Trade" advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holding & Travel Category
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

Data Protection
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or to avoid debtors.

Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Capital Media Newspapers Ltd or carefully selected third parties, i.e., or they may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other accessible means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.

Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (KING STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of King Street between its junctions with Queen Caroline Street and Cambridge Grove.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Shepherd's Bush Road and Goldhawk Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 7th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 7th March 2017 and last until Thursday 27th July 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (ARGYLE PLACE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate gas main works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Argyle Place between its junction with King Street and the rear of 118-116 King Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 14th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 14th March 2017 and last for 8 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE A10 GLA ROAD (GRACECHURCH STREET, CITY OF LONDON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2017

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2.
2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
3. The purpose of the Order is to enable carriageway works to take place on Gracechurch Street.
4. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - (1) Turning right from Fenchurch Street into Gracechurch Street;
 - (2) Proceeding southbound on Gracechurch Street past the junction of Fenchurch Street;
 - (3) Exiting Gracechurch Street at the junction of Eastcheap and King William Street;

The Order will also

- (4) Lift the weight restriction to allow vehicles over 18 tonnes to proceed from Eastcheap, King William Street or Cannon Street into Gracechurch Street.

The Order will be effective between the dates of 26th February 2017 and 27th March 2017, every Sunday between 8.00 PM and 5.00 AM (ending 5.00 AM Monday) or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via

[To turn right from Fenchurch Street] Gracechurch Street northbound, Bishopsgate, Threadneedle Street, King William Street to normal route of travel;

[To proceed southbound on Gracechurch Street] Fenchurch Street, Mincing Lane, Great Tower Street, Eastcheap to normal route of travel.

Dated this 14th day of February 2016

Mufu Durowaju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (CRESFORD ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Cresford Road at its junction with Wandsworth Bridge Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be via
 - (a) Wandsworth Bridge Road, Bovington Road and Bagleys Lane
 - (b) Wandsworth Bridge Road, New Kings Road and Harwood Terrace
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 16th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Thursday 16th February 2017 and last for 4 days with a backup of Tuesday 28th February 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**YOUR LOCAL
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**BEST FOR NEWS, SPORT,
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Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

79 Milson Road London W14 0LH 2016/05516/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a one bedroom self-contained flat.

158 Hurlingham Road London SW6 3NG 2017/00315/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of French doors to replace the existing window to the side of the single storey back addition; installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation.

72 Cloncurry Street London SW6 6DU 2017/00293/FUL

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/03248/FUL granted 3rd September 2015 to allow the enlargement of front part of the basement and lightwell.

15 Brackenbury Gardens London W6 0BP 2016/05504/FUL

Relocation of existing steps at the front of the property.

Flat Basement And Ground Floor 139 Sulgrave Road London W6 7PX 2016/00449/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; formation of new external steps and associated landscaping in the rear garden.

37 Peterborough Road London SW6 3BT 2017/00348/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 250mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a two storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition at ground and first floor levels; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the basement; in connection with the conversion of the single dwelling house into 1 x 1 bedroom, 1 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 3 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

89 Eronwald Street London W12 0BT 2017/00358/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope.

59 Emlyn Road London W12 9TG 2017/00363/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; increasing the height of the roof of first floor rear back addition.

220 Uxbridge Road London W12 7JD 2017/00148/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor from a pawnbrokers (Class A1/A2) into a restaurant (Class A3); installation of a new shopfront; installation of an external extraction flue on the rear elevation from the flat roof of the ground floor back addition extending 1000mm above the eaves of the main roof.

36 Beltran Road London SW6 3AJ 2017/00265/FUL

Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell and part of the rear garden to form a lightwell; in connection with the creation of a new basement. (Amended Description)

8 Amor Road London W6 0AN 2017/00312/VAR

Variation of Condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning permission reference: 2016/02579/FUL granted 03/08/2016 to include: alterations to rear dormer window; reduction of the footprint of basement, omit rear lightwell, installation of three French doors to rear elevation at ground floor level; repositioning of windows to side elevation at first and second floor levels and installation of a porthole window to side elevation at second floor level; retain rear chimney stack; increase boundary wall heights;

additional rooflight to front roofslope.(amended description)
17 Sulgrave Road London W6 7RD 2016/05088/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation; excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property (Amended description).
St Saviour's Church Cobbold Road London W12 9LN 2017/00352/FUL

Installation of 2no ventilation louvres behind the glazing bars, 1no extract fan, 1no horizontally pivoted opening light into the existing high level and 1no external flue to southern elevation; installation of 3no horizontally pivoted opening lights into the existing high level windows to northern elevation.

3 Rycroft Street London SW6 3TP 2017/00411/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope.
3 Sussex Place London W6 9EA 2017/00388/FUL

Erection of a single storey building for use as (Class B1) office.

164 Dalling Road London W6 0EU 2017/00355/FUL

Removal of existing garage doors to front elevation and installation of new windows and relocation of entrance door, in connection with the conversion of the existing garage into a habitable room.

32 Ethelton Road London W12 7BG 2017/00195/FUL

Retention of white UPVC double-glazed windows to the front and rear elevations.

9A Overstone Road London W6 0AA 2017/00284/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm.

32 Greswell Street London SW6 6PP 2017/00340/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights above the main flat roof at roof level.

8 Amor Road London W6 0AN 2017/00336/VAR

Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission reference: 2016/02579/FUL granted 03/08/2016 for the, to allow amendments to the approved drawings to include increasing the ridge height by 150mm; addition of a rear parapet wall at second floor level; alterations to rear dormer window; reduction of the footprint of basement, omit rear lightwell, installation of three French doors to rear elevation at ground floor level; repositioning of windows to side elevation at first and second floor levels and installation of a porthole window to side elevation at second floor level; retain rear chimney stack; increase boundary wall heights; additional rooflight to front roofslope.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 7th March 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Unit C302A Westfield London Shopping Centre Ariel Way London W12 7GA 2017/00404/VAR

I give notice that Leon is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Removal of condition 1 of planning permission ref: 2016/00751/FUL granted 20th April 2016 to allow the continued use of part of the front forecourt as an outside seating area comprising of 12no tables and 24no chairs.

Unit C302A Westfield London Shopping Centre Ariel Way London W12 7GA 2017/00405/VAR

I give notice that Leon is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Removal of condition 1 of planning permission ref: 2016/00752/ADV granted 20th April 2016 to allow the retention of 10no barriers with non-illuminated canvas signages at the front elevation.

108 Dawes Road London SW6 7EQ 2017/00366/FUL

I give notice that Ms Nishma Raval is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Conversion of first, second and third floor level into 3 x self-contained studio flats; change of use of the ground floor and basement level from retail (Class A1) into a two bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3); replacement of existing shopfront with new glazing windows and doors; installation of new openings to the rear elevation at ground and basement level.

65 Macfarlane Road London W12 7JY 2017/00308/FUL

I give notice that Ms Carla Shakeshaft is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Change of use to a HMO(class Sui Generis) with 7 bedrooms, en-suite shower rooms, communal kitchen, living dining room and related facilities (The lawful use of the site is a single family dwelling).

Flat A Ground Floor 200 Stephendale Road London SW6 2PW 2017/00307/FUL

I give notice that Graham Chappell is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Excavation of front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; conversion of the basement and ground floor level into 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 7th March 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications. Signed: **JULIEMMA MCLOUGHLIN** Director for Planning and Development on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website:

www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL**

EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above.

Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly.

For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.

planning Online lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (SHEPHERD'S BUSH ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would temporarily suspend the eastbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the eastbound bus lane on Shepherds Bush Road, between Nos. 229 and 243 (Rook House) Shepherds Bush Road, shall be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 28th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Tuesday 28th February 2017 and last for 6 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (ST PETER'S SQUARE) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of St Peter's Square at its junction with Neyot Gardens.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 20th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 20th February 2017 and last for 26 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (CRESFORD ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Cresford Road at its junction with Wandsworth Bridge Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be via
(a) Wandsworth Bridge Road, Bovington Road and Bagleys Lane
(b) Wandsworth Bridge Road, New Kings Road and Harwood Terrace
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 16th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Thursday 16th February 2017 and last for 4 days with a backup of Tuesday 28th February 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of February 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

No place like home

AN eighth home league defeat of the season, this time against high-flying Huddersfield Town, leaves Queens Park Rangers glancing nervously over their shoulder at the relegation zone, writes *Tony McDonald*.

Only two teams, Wigan Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers, have a worse home record than Rangers, who have won four and drawn four of their 16 matches at Loftus Road.

Add in Blackburn Rovers' FA Cup third round victory at Shepherd's Bush and you can appreciate why Rs fans believe there really is no place like home.

Chelsea loanee Izzy Brown (26 minutes) – his fourth goal in six games – set Huddersfield on course for their first league win in W12 in 13 attempts. Nahki Wells (37) doubled Terriers' lead before half-time as the Yorkshiremen climbed to third in the table.

Although second-half substitute Luke Freeman, a recent £300,000 signing from Bristol City, marked his QPR debut with his first goal for the club on the hour mark, this defeat leaves Ian Holloway's side down to 19th – just three places and five points above the bottom three.

Holloway said: "We've probably got to win five or six games, so we've got a big margin for error. We're disappointed to lose again but if we keep playing like that, we'll be fine."

"We created three or four chances before they scored. We let the first goal in almost out of nothing and then, before you know it, it's two. We had a mountain to climb but I was delighted with the lads' effort."

"Unfortunately, this league is about taking your chances, and we created more than enough. That's what a venomous snake does to you. It bites you – and we got bitten twice."

"I was disappointed at half-time because I felt for 20 minutes we gave them a right good game."

"The changes in the second half really gave us a boost. I was delighted with the subs."

"We just need to take the chances. Because Huddersfield know they've been in a big game."

QPR's director of football Les Ferdinand might care to ponder why Izzy Brown and, especially, Tammy Abraham were not on the club's loan radar last summer, when this pair of promising Chelsea youth products headed to Huddersfield and Bristol respectively to gain experience and competitive game-time in the Championship, rather than



This QPR squad picture from the late 60s will evoke happy memories for supporters of that exciting era in Rangers history. Four players in this shot were on Saturday inducted into the Forever Rs club. Mike Keen is centre in the front row; Dave Clement and Ron Springett are third and fourth from the left in the middle row, with Mick Leach second from the right-end of the same row



Out in the cold: Ian Holloway needs to arrest his team's abysmal home record Pic: Rob Newell

simply link up with their West London neighbours.

The 19-year-old Abraham took his league goals tally for the season to 18 with a brace in Bristol City's 3-3

draw at Derby on Saturday. How Rangers could do with the former Pimlico student to lead their blunt attack which has managed only 15 goals in 16 home games.

Once again, the QPR boss had cause to rue decisions that went against his team. Holloway added: "I'm looking at the referee and some of the decisions. It was very frustrating."

"We had a lot of decisions that didn't go our way. And they had a lot that did. It's so infuriating, because the fans really drove us on in the second half."

"We didn't fold. We didn't wobble. We just didn't get the big decisions that could've gone our way."

"I'm bitterly disappointed for the team because we deserved a point."

"We need to keep going and believe we can get the right results."

On a more optimistic note, Holloway and his players should not let cold statistics start to haunt them just yet. Birmingham City managed to avoid relegation from the second tier in 2013-14, finishing 21st, despite winning only two home games and drawing eight.

As it happens, Rangers' next game is against Birmingham at St Andrew's on Saturday.

Rs remember past heroes

GOOD to see QPR continuing to remember and respect another group of their heroes from days gone by.

On Saturday, eight more ex-players – all deceased – were inducted into the Forever Rs Hall of Fame. The latest to be honoured in this way were: Mike Keen (440 appearances, 45 goals, 1958-69), who skippered the historic 1967 League Cup-winning side; Mick Leach (361 apps, 70 gls, 1964-78); Dave Clement (476 apps, 28 gls, 1965-79); Alan McDonald (483 apps, 18 gls, 1981-97); goalkeeping brothers Ron (147 apps, 1953-58 and 1967-69) and Peter Springett (161 apps, 1963-67); and under-16s player Kiyan Prince (14 apps, 7 gls, 2005-06), who, in May 2006 at the age of 15, was tragically stabbed to death outside his school gates in Edgware. Among the club's VIP guests representing the families of the former players was David Ingham, son of Tony Ingham, who played a club record 514 league games (555 in all competition, 3 goals) for Rangers between 1950 and 1963 before becoming commercial director and secretary.

Fans walk for charity funds

TIGER Feet 8 is nearly upon us, as Rangers fans prepare to walk the walk once again for QPR in the Community Trust.

After the huge success of Tiger Feet 7 last season, which raised in excess of £14,000 for the QPR Tiger Cubs, this season's walk will take place on Saturday, March 18, starting at R's Harlington training ground and finishing at Loftus Road, in time for QPR's home fixture against Rotherham United.

Leaving Harlington at 8.30am, an army of Rangers supporters will make the 13-mile walk to Loftus Road, all in aid of the QPR Tiger Cubs, a football team for children and young people with Down's Syndrome.

Run in partnership with the Down's Syndrome Association, the Tiger Cubs project aims to create a multi-tier learning environment that will improve the participants' overall physical, social and emotional health.

The money raised from the walk goes directly to the team to cover their expenses, assist with future projects and further extending new opportunities for the project.

The walk will be the highlight of a number of community-based activities taking place on the day of Hoops' clash against the Millers, and Trust Business Development Manager Fiona Hodgson is looking forward to the latest fundraiser.

"The Tiger Feet walks have gone from strength to strength, year on year," she said.

"We were so delighted with how the walk went last year, with the QPR family showing amazing support, and we're all very grateful for any support that can be given for our trek from Harlington to Loftus Road in March."

"We are very proud of the Tiger Cubs project and are very grateful for the opportunities that this fundraiser enables us to deliver."

"We've raised some £75,000 over the last six years, with walks to Crystal Palace, Watford, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, Charlton and West Ham – and long may that continue."

To sponsor the walkers, visit the club's official website at www.qpr.co.uk. If you require further details on Tiger Feet 8, contact Fiona Hodgson by email at: fionah@qpr.co.uk.

Under 18s are champions – with luxury of two games to spare

FROM PAGE 28

CHELSEA Under-18s have won their division with two games to spare.

Jody Morris' youngsters beat Leicester City away, 3-0, to claim the U18 Premier League south section title.

In his first season as boss, having been assistant to Joe Edwards, Morris saw his side keep their ninth

clean sheet of the season and extended their unbeaten run to 16 games. In total they have netted 52 times.

Hotshot Martel Taylor-Crossdale's excellent curling free-kick put the West Londoners into the lead on Saturday. That was the striker's 16th goal of the season. George McEachran, younger brother of ex-Blue Josh, now at Brentford, notched

the decisive second before Luke McCormick added the third.

The young Blues return to Leicester on Wednesday to face the Foxes in the FA Youth Cup quarter-final. The defending cup holders' will be attempting to reach the semi-finals for the eighth year in a row.

Kick-off at the King Power Stadium is 7.05pm. If you are going, tickets cost £3 for adults on the door, with £1

for concessions.

■ CHELSEA Ladies drew 2-2 against Swedish side Rosengard on Sunday in a pre-season friendly, with Karen Carney and Katie Chapman on target.

■ CONGRATULATIONS to reader Rob Tustin, winner of the LWN Sport/Chelsea FC Legends Tour of Stamford Bridge which took place on Sunday.

He was accompanied on the tour, conducted by ex-Blues Gary Chivers and Colin Pates, by his son – all thanks to our friends at Chelsea.

Rob was the first name out of the hat after he correctly answered that the post-football career of Chivers included a stint as a Black Cab driver and that Pates is a teacher.

Well done to him and thanks to all who entered the competition.

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SPORT

Tuesday February 14 2017

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427




Diego Costa has been misfiring for Chelsea but showed tremendous effort against Burnley – a result that Gary Cahill believes could be crucial

Pictures: Rob Newell



Fulham boss wants more

 Focus on Craven Cottage

EVER-demanding Fulham boss Slaviša Jokanović was still not satisfied despite seeing his team snatch victory in the fourth minute of stoppage time against Championship strugglers Wigan Athletic at chilly Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Goals by Floyd Ayite, Denis Odoi and Neeskens Kebano earned Whites maximum points to climb one place to ninth and move within six points of the play-off positions.

The win extends the West Londoners' unbeaten league run against second-bottom Luton to 17 matches.

But head coach Jokanović said: "I can be proud of my team's desire to score the goals to win the game but from another side, I was really disappointed with some parts of the game.

"We weren't solid enough, we didn't show a good enough attitude or desire to defend, or when we were playing without the ball, and this is an important part of football, too.

"It's not important that we have 73 per cent possession of the ball if you cannot fix the problem without the ball. This kind of present we gave them today is simply not acceptable. If we don't improve this part of the game we cannot be successful.

"I expect I'm going to find something different on Tuesday night (against Nottingham Forest) and we're still going to be better in some parts of the game.

"At the end we scored the third goal and we go home satisfied with the points but I'm not satisfied with what we offered today."

Ayite put Fulham ahead from close range in the 25th minute, following a surging run and cut-back from Sone Aluko, but Wigan were level seven minutes when Scott Malone turned Stephen Warnock's cross into his own net.

Michael Jacobs slid in Max Power's left-wing cross to put the visitors ahead in first-half stoppage-time.

Although Wigan lost goalkeeper Jakob Haugaard to injury at half-time, with Matt Gilks taking over, they went close to a third goal when Omar Bogle was denied by home keeper David Button.

Aluko hit the crossbar for the hosts before Odoi's stunning 30-yard strike found the bottom corner to level the scores with 20 minutes left to play.

The match was heading for an 11th draw between the sides in the last 17 meetings until Kebano struck on his return from Africa Cup of Nations duty with DR Congo. Receiving an inch-perfect pass from Tom Cairney, he sidefooted home on the angle at the Putney end.

Jokanović continued: "We are working so hard to be more solid and more competitive. I'm always after the clean sheet.

"Today we made ourselves a bit nervous without any pressure from the opposition team. We weren't strong enough to stop Bogle – this kid pushed us and did some big damage to us. This is not acceptable and we need to stop this kind of situation."

Tonight (Tuesday) Fulham entertain a Nottingham Forest side looking to bounce back from a 5-1 battering at Norwich on Saturday, before Whites turn their attention to their mouth-watering FA Cup fifth round derby with Spurs at The Cottage on Sunday (2.00pm).

Tony McDonald

Cahill values 'big' point

Blues settle for well-earned draw as title inches closer



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

GARY Cahill remains bullish that the hard-earned point Chelsea achieved at Burnley on Sunday might just be the one that sees Chelsea regain the Premier League title.

Pedro scored in the seventh minute but a wonder free-kick from Robbie Brady earned the Claretts a 1-1 draw.

Cahill, skipper in the absence of John Terry, said: "We were aware of their record before we came here – the fact that they have only one point away from home. We knew that they were going to have confidence playing here, because that's where their results are coming from. It was always going to be dangerous.

"Then add that to the fact there was sleet and snow and it was freezing, so we knew it was going to be very tough. So the result didn't disappoint.

"Maybe that's a big point for us, time will tell, but it was important we didn't lose."

Before Chelsea play Manchester City at The Bridge in early April, Blues have the chance to put clear daylight between them and other challenges.

"It's a time to press on," the 31-year-old England centre-back agreed. "The motivation to try and finish the job should be there for everyone. There is a light at the end of the tunnel now and it's just important we keep working, keep focused, keep doing what we have been doing for 95 per cent of the season.

"I thought we could have played a lot better on Sunday and maybe that's a little wake-up call where we realise that

it's obviously going to be tough to cross the line and there is still plenty of football to be played."

Cahill believes that hard work on the training ground is reaping dividends on the pitch.

"We have been playing well, attacking, scoring goals and keeping loads of clean sheets," he said.

"It's been going good for us this season. Burnley were very direct and I am not criticising them for that, because I have been on both sides of the coin in teams that I have played in. Every time the ball was in their half, it was getting booted towards our the box. They played to their strengths and that's why it was so difficult. Every game is difficult in its own way and it is something we have to adapt to.

"When you play teams like Arsenal and Manchester City, with their movement, you have to concentrate on tracking runs. And then there are games against sides like Burnley where it is slightly different.

"Everyone makes mistakes, that's football, but we haven't made that many this season. That's why you see so many clean sheets. We have a good shape and are attacking. It comes from work on the training pitch and that's what we have to keep doing.

"It's not hard to stay focused if you want to achieve what we want," he continued. "We have done so much hard work this season, to get us in this position and almost see the finish line.

"With 13 matches to go now, it's important that we chalk them off with the right results. I think that we should be even more focused as we get closer (to the finish) and even more determined."

Diego Costa's goal drought continues. It's been four games since he hit the back of the net but Cahill is not concerned.

"It didn't even cross my mind, to be honest," he said. "It's a team thing. If we had played a lot better on Sunday, then Diego would have got a few more opportunities, it goes hand in hand.

"We dug in when we had to. It wasn't the prettiest. It wasn't a nice sunny afternoon at Stamford Bridge, where we can just zip the ball about. It was tough, we wanted three points but it wasn't to be. But we have it in our make-up now – 'don't lose'.

"In the first half, maybe we could have had opportunities to put the game to bed if we'd taken our chances. If it had gone 2-0 it would have been a different ball game. But the way the second half went, taking everything into account, it was important that we did not lose."

HHEAD coach Antonio Conte knew it was going to be a tough game at Burnley but he was disappointed with the result.

"I said Burnley at home is one team and away is another team. When you see they have 29 points at home, you know they are a tough team.

"Despite this we must be bit disappointed because we started well. We created a chance to score and then scored the goal. In the second half we tried with all our strength to win the game but it didn't happen. It is a pity but we tried to play football. We tried to create chances against a strong team."

The draw at Turf Moor stretched Blues' lead at the top to 10 points before Manchester City's game at Bournemouth last night (played after LWN Sport went to press).

"If someone thinks this league is finished, for me I can tell you no," Conte continued. "There are six teams, for me, that can win the league. Anything can happen. We must continue to work in

this way, to try to find a way to win in the same way that we tried on Sunday. I am happy for the commitment. The will to try to fight to win. For sure, I am pleased with the commitment of my players."

On misfiring Diego Costa and lacklustre Eden Hazard, he said: "I saw great commitment from the team but we must be a bit disappointed to take only one point. We put a lot of energy on the pitch."

"We want to win every game. Against Burnley, we tried to play football, we found a team to look to disrupt, with the long balls to fight for the second ball. I have great respect for Burnley and the other teams."

Burnley are fourth in the 'home table' with 29 points (nine wins, two draws and just three defeats), behind Chelsea (33), Tottenham (32) and Arsenal (29), who have a slightly superior goal-difference to Claretts.

"They are doing a great job," Conte added, before explaining why Burnley are so effective at home.

"The pitch is small and it is better for the team that defends and plays the long ball. You have less pitch to cover, there is a good atmosphere and I think it is right to have this type of atmosphere. For all of these reasons they have taken these points.

"Our mentality is that we always try to win but sometimes we must understand that there are tough games. This game was very tough.

"I am disappointed for the point but not the commitment and the fight and will to try to win the game."

Blues take a break from their quest for Premier League points on Saturday (5.30pm), when they visit Championship side Wolverhampton Wanderers in the fifth round of the FA Cup.

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